



## Political demands for budget cuts at University of Copenhagen

26 MAY 2010

Dear employees and students,

**RECTOR'S OFFICE**

Yesterday, the Danish Government and Dansk Folkeparti (Danish People's Party) entered into an agreement on "reconstruction of the Danish economy". If sustained, the agreement will have significant impact on the University of Copenhagen's financial situation and as such I find it relevant to inform of the perspectives already at this early stage.

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With the agreement, the universities' research and education areas will face a surprising and significant reduction in the years to come. The plan includes several elements:

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[www.ku.dk/english](http://www.ku.dk/english)

The ambition to increase public research spending to reach 1 per cent of the GDP has been maintained. However, since the Danish GDP is decreasing, the Government has chosen to reduce research appropriations by DKK 203 mio in 2012 and DKK 748 mio in 2013.

REF: SCU

A substantial reduction in administration has also been deemed possible by the political parties involved. Add to this a general retrenchment of 0.5 per cent annually on each ministerial area, and the total cutback for the universities will be DKK 428 mio in 2012. In 2013, we face the even bleaker scenario of cutbacks to the tune of 10 per cent of the universities' annual income. The termination of globalisation funds in 2013 will show the actual deficiency left by the cutbacks.

Clearly, the universities must play their part in restoring the national economy. But this operation will lead to dramatic consequences for research and the quality of education.

## Cutbacks targeted at the universities

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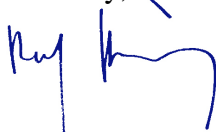
Mio DKK	2011	2012	2013
University administration efficiency savings	-	125	250
Adapting research appropriations to 1 per cent of GDP	-	203	748
Termination of the university laboratories investment (globalisation funds)	-	-	1,014
Estimated general reduction of the Ministry of Science; 0.5 per cent annually 2011-2013	100	100	100

*Source: excerpt of Table 2. Targeted budget improvements in the state in "Aftale om genopretning af dansk økonomi", as well as University Finance's estimate of the ministerial reductions.*

The Government has yet to announce how the cutbacks will affect each university. The University of Copenhagen alone makes up for approximately one third of the Danish university sector. At this moment, it appears that the University of Copenhagen may experience cutbacks totalling least DKK 200-300 mio in 2013. That is the equivalent of downsizing by 400-700 positions in the coming years.

In June, The University Board and The General Collaboration Committee will discuss the financial perspectives for the University of Copenhagen. Based on that, in the fall of 2010 I will present the concrete plans for financial adaption in the coming years.

Sincerely,



Ralf Hemmingsen  
Rector