



JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION

JNUTA GBM Brief Minutes

Date: March 18, 2016 at 4 pm

Venue: JNUTA Faculty Centre

Members Present: 121

The meeting started with welcome of colleagues by the JNUTA President. He thanked all the members for participating in the more than month-long movement and briefly reported about the current developments related to the inquiry process. Before this the Secretary informed the house about the absence of one of the Vice President Ashish owing to a Seminar in his Centre.

1. Reports (Secretary and Treasurer) of the previous JNUTA

The reports by the Treasurer and the Secretary of the outgoing team were adopted. The Secretary's report was discussed by many members present.

- a. Prof. Murthy drew attention to the fact that allowing for two categories (for instance Type IV or V) for house allotment to essential category of staff creates opportunity for arbitrariness. Only one type should be specified. Further the VC should not pick and choose between elected representatives to any committee. The current system should continue.
- b. Prof. Butola emphasized that JNUTA needs to demand that no extension be given to those beyond the maximum retirement age.
- c. Dr. Dipendra highlighted several areas of concern related to the Creche, Project Cell, extension of terms of officers, Citizen's Charter, CPF to GPF, Housing, IQAC, API-CAS etc.
- d. Dr. Hemant enquired about the status of the Disaster Risk Program (DRP).
- e. Prof. Sachidanand Sinha, the outgoing President presented the response including on the DRP and said that this Programme has not been brought for discussion in AC or EC.



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- f. Prof. Ajay Patnaik appreciated the work done by the previous JNUTA on many front and elaborated on some of the issues.

2. HLEC Report and Further Action

The Secretary introduced the theme to the house and the JNUTA position on the report of HLEC. Many faculty members participated and gave their suggestions. Some of the highlights of the discussion were:

- a. Prof. Ravi Srivastava drew attention to the truncated version of the HLEC report publicly available. He criticized that the full report has not been made available still to the JNUTA. The findings of the report, validates the stand taken by JNUTA from the beginning that the entire enquiry process has lacked credibility. He also suggested a Citizens Panel to do a fact finding.
- b. Some members pointed out that JNUTA should highlight the violations in the disciplinary process. It was suggested that we should make a distinction between the Proctorial process and the HLEC and perhaps find a way to engage with the Proctorial process currently underway.
- c. Prof. Praveen Jha suggested that a letter similar to the one drafted by Chairpersons of SSS could be sent by all Chairpersons from other Schools on the procedures of the HLEC.
- d. Prof. Sucheta Mahajan was of the view that JNUTA needs to reject the HLEC report with a strong critique, though she felt that students should answer the show cause notices. She also brought to the notice of the GBM that the Inter Hall Administration (IHA) has strongly criticized the attack on teachers who are functioning in various capacities in the administration.
- e. Prof. Neelika Mehrotra echoed Prof. Mahajan's concerns and also demanded that JNUTA should demand the full report from the JNU Administration.
- f. Prof. Geetha Nambissan also echoed these concerns and asked whether the JNU Administration will protect faculty colleagues from getting harassed for doing their duty. She also urged JNUTA to continue



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dialogue with the JNU Administration, while carrying on with the idea of free speech and expression in the University.

- g. It was underlined that the Officiating Registrar had provided false testimony, which was apparent from the Delhi Government's Magisterial Enquiry Report. This was an unprecedented situation where on the basis of fake video evidences JNU Community has been attacked and therefore action should be demanded on the basis of Magisterial Enquiry.
- h. There was a view expressed that JNUTA should facilitate either a *Jan Sunwai* or an Eminent Citizens' Panel on the HLEC report. There were multiple opinions and it was resolved that rather than Public hearing involving open presentations by any member of the JNU Community, JNUTA should hold a Public panel to discuss HLEC Report. Members supported this.
- i. Others however expressed apprehensions and argued for more caution given that the situation was improving. Further since HLEC members are JNUTA members and esteemed colleagues, a measured response would be appreciated.
- j. It was also suggested that complaints should be filed with Press Bureau and Broadcasting Association against news channels that have undertaken a vilification campaign against JNU.
- k. Some members pointed out to the haste with which the HLEC was established and then the report was being dealt with, while the same haste has not been shown in the case of Dr. Burton by the administration. The report was submitted in January 2016 and has not been discussed. JNUTA must pursue this.
- l. Surveillance and issues related to right of free speech were highlighted. Every one agreed that the University Administration should desist from direct or indirect monitoring of activities related to courses, classrooms and academic life in the Campus in general.



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Resolutions Adopted

1. Individual Attacks on Teachers – University Administration must take cognizance and act against those who resort to intimidate teacher colleagues.
2. Eminent Persons' Panel to debate the HLEC Report – prof. Surajit Mazumdar will organize it.
3. Citizens Fact Finding Committee –Prof. Ravi Srivastava will be in charge.
4. The Teach-In programs will continue with a new Committee, whose members would be Prof. Neeladri Bhattacharya (Convenor), Prof. Sucheta Mahajan, Dr. Vikas Rawal, Dr. Rohit Azad, Dr. Veena Hariharan, and Dr. Udaya Kumar.
5. Though JNUTA has raised questions on the credibility of the inquiry process, it was felt that it should engage with the Administration to bring back normalcy in the Campus and press upon the principles of natural justice and compassionate approach.

Prof. Patnaik in his concluding remark said how the collective efforts of the teachers prevented further police action inside the Campus, led to the addition of two members to the HLEC, to keeping the Officiating Registrar away from dealing with the inquiry process and matters related to 9 February incidents (though belated), hasten the appointment of the new Registrar who joined on the day of the GBM. He also highlighted how JNUTA has been the institution that all the other communities in JNU and the Administration have preferred to engage with to overcome the current crisis in the University.