

## **JNUTA: General Body Meeting 24 August 2016**

### **Resolution 1:**

The JNUTA General Body expresses its deep shock and concern at the reported incident of rape on the JNU campus. In the light of whatever has come out in the public domain, the teachers condemn the heinous crime and demand strictest punishment. The GBM holds the view that the University Administration should respond to this incident with the combination of sensitivity and decisiveness it deserves so that the due process of law can proceed unhindered and the complainant is provided all the necessary support. The GBM reiterates its commitment to building and maintaining a gender-just campus.

### **Resolution 2:**

The JNUTA GB expresses its strong sense of outrage at the sustained and conscious attempts of the JNU Administration headed by the VC to subvert the University's autonomy and its democratic ethos. The GB notes a clear and unmistakable trend towards increasing centralization of decision-making and concentration of discretionary power being combined with their use in a blatantly unfair and unjust manner wherein a larger trend of suppression and intimidation of all sections of the University are discernible.

The failure of the University Administration to respond in any way to the serious concerns raised by the JNUTA in relation to the suspension of a teacher only reaffirms this conviction. Not only has there been no revocation of the suspension as had been demanded, in the nearly three weeks since the strike and dharna of teachers on the issue (5<sup>th</sup> August) there has been no response from the University Administration to the JNUTA's written representation and the demands raised with regard to the invoking of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 and CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964 and making them applicable to teachers and other staff of JNU. The GBM therefore noted the urgent need to use the coming meeting of the University's Executive Council to defend the democratic rights of teachers and non-teaching staff by mobilising against the highly restrictive CCS rules.

The GBM also noted that the use of intimidatory tactics by the University Administration continues to also target the students of the University. It is not surprising therefore that the University Administration has deliberately failed to take advantage of the appeal process to address the widespread concerns about harsh penalties being imposed on students in relation to the 9<sup>th</sup> February incidents in violation of all principles of natural justice. By more or less upholding the original penalties recommended by the HLEC, the University Administration

has also chosen to ignore the overwhelming sentiment expressed by a large number of members of the AC at its meeting held on 10 May 2016, which was recorded in the form of a written statement signed by 52 members and submitted to the VC.

These actions have been combined with the Administration now shockingly attaching severely restrictive and anti-democratic conditions for granting of permission to hold public meetings in hostels - including requirements for recording of proceedings, furnishing details of all participants to the Administration, checking by security, etc. Clearly the attempt is to throttle the vibrant culture of debate and discussion through hostel meetings which has been a hallmark of JNU since its inception and to increase surveillance over activities on campus.

Apart from the abovementioned actions themselves, the Administration has shown no serious intent to deal with other issues that have been agitating the teachers of the University. The Paschimabad incident took place only a few days after 9 February, and has been in the notice of the Administration for an equally long period – yet nothing has been done till date on that matter even though supposedly an inquiry was initiated. Dr. Burton Cleetus was falsely charged for carrying out his duties as a Warden – and the University's own enquiries have established that the charges were false and motivated. Yet the Administration dragged its feet for a long time, neglected his pleas and then left him high and dry to deal with the matter legally and otherwise entirely on his own. These are just two examples and not the only instances of such a kind.

The GBM also took a strong exception to the unwarranted and undue holding up of the promotion process of a large number of teachers. The GBM noted that this move too smacks of attempts to twist rules to deny teachers their legitimate rights and flout the decisions by our own Executive Council taken earlier. Reports of the Administration consistently pushing a policy of discriminating against JNU faculty/alumnus in open selections only lends credence to the conclusion that the attempt is to 'teach a lesson' to those who have been part of JNU.

The GBM also expresses its deep disappointment at the University's Executive Council approving the appointment of a Chairperson of the Special Centre for Nanoscience in violation of the principle of rotation by seniority. This approval can further encourage use of discretion into the process of selection of Deans and Chairpersons. This trend is already reflected in the minutes of the EC meeting itself in which the Administration, in response to the concerns raised by elected and other members, has only asserted its right to violate the seniority principle whenever it feels it is appropriate.

The JNUTA GBM, however, reaffirmed the commitment of teachers not to take this brazen assault on the University and contemptuous treatment of teachers lying down. Given the current state of affairs, the Administration headed by Professor M. Jagadesh Kumar requires a drastic course correction to win back the confidence of the body of teachers of the University. The smooth functioning of the university can only be possible if the traditions and conventions are respected, participation of all sections of JNU Community in various decision-making processes are ensured and temptation to use discretion is eschewed.

To convey the sentiments of teachers to members of the University's Executive Council and to press for the demands following from them, the GBM decides to organize a **Dharna** at the venue of the EC meeting (Administrative Block) on **Tuesday, 30 August 2016**. The GBM also decides to appeal to the non-teaching staff associations to come together for a united struggle to defend the University and reject the attempt to turn it into a government department.

**Resolution 3:**

The Executive Council, at its meeting held on 21 June 2016, has decided to constitute a committee for naming the roads of the University. The JNUTA GBM holds the view that if such naming is to be done, the practice of naming (hostels, areas, etc.) after the country's geographical landmarks should be followed and naming after individuals should be avoided at all costs.