

The EGBM on 11 March 2015 was attended by 40 members.

Minutes

Previous JNUTA President (Prof Arun Kumar) briefed the house on the working of the outgoing team.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were presented and accepted.

The proposed Central Universities Act and JNU's position and future strategy and course of action was discussed.

It was noted that the JNUTA and JNU administration are on one page in their resistance to the proposed ACT.

A Resolution was passed against the proposed Central Universities Act

Discussion Points. It may be noted that following were the points raised by various members at the EGBM

It was noted that the objective of the act was debatable. The new central universities are very different. The JNU committee needs to make its position public. As part of our strategy it was proposed that political parties need to be tapped and media be used to build opinion against the act. (Prof Mridula Mukherjee)

It was noted that the act aims at homogenisation, ignoring the specificities and uniqueness of each university. The proposal of transfer of teachers is likely to encourage corruption with money being paid to stop transfer or for desired transfer. The act attempts to pull down universities to a common minimum rather than uplift, improve and learn from each other's experience. All teachers associations need to unite, focus on AIFUCTO and revive FEDCUTA. Need for JNU faculty to visit other universities to explain the JNUTA' position and build opinion against the ACT. (Prof Ajay Patnaik)

In a somewhat same vein it was pointed out that the Act indicated a sinister design to destroy higher education and bring in private players. Nowhere in the world are 'transfers' between institutions practiced. These transfers can be used as a punitive measure to silence dissent and independent voices. We need to isolate academicians who believe in this, debate with them and ask them to explain how these proposed moves would benefit higher education. It is not about our individual survival as teachers but the question of damaging higher education irreparably. (Dr Vikram)

Teacher's associations are being ignored by the current government. AIFUCTO tried to meet MHRD not invited. The National Education Teacher's Council is a 5 member committee that is informing policy making. UGC also wants AIFUCTO and FEDCUTA to come up and take a stand because the UGC has been totally stifled by the ministry. (Prof Malakar)

Need to look at the 2009 ACT, 2013 amendment and compare them with the JNU act, need to focus on specificities and build opposition to the act politically as is being done by CCTAD was pointed out. A comparison of the 2009 Act and JNU Act shows that the act has no mission statement. Attempt to flatten the uniqueness of central universities, JNU would be affected. We need to build reasoned argument and response. The act may be put at abeyance but the 7 pay commission may reintroduce them in the form of a package deal. It may divide teachers we therefore need to develop strategy with caution. (Prof Murthy)

The draconian nature of the 2009 act was pointed out. It does not allow unionism, many of the new universities without associations. This is an attempt to stifle teacher's voices. We need to push for amendment of this clause. (Dr Srinivas)

We need to articulate our demands with care. In government colleges of many states jobs have been transferable. Our university is primarily research university with specific requirements. The higher education structure of the country is complex and this needs to be kept in mind in formulating strategies. In the decades that it functioned the FEDCUTA in Delhi had articulated needs and demands of DU under graduate colleges, not even Delhi University let alone JNU. (Prof R.Srivastava)

Need to reach out to colleagues within the university through door to door campaign, public meetings in hostels to explain our position, rope in students as they like teachers are likely to be most affected by this move to destroy the higher education infrastructure. (Dr Ashish)

Need to reach out to members of parliament and continuous engagement with them, hold seminars with press coverage. Immediate need to provide JNU teaching community and the teaching community across different universities with a summary of all that is happening vis-à-vis the Act.

Bhaswati Sarkar