

## Minutes of the JNUTA GBM on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

The meeting began taking note of the sad demise of Prof. MSS Pandian on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2014. JNUTA President, read the condolence message and all the members present in the meeting observed two minutes silence in the memory of Prof. Pandian.

### The following issues as per the agenda of the GBM were discussed:

1. **Election of the new JNUTA team** for the year 2014-15. It was decided that since the current JNUTA team took office in February, 2014 its term may continue till end January 2015. This will enable the current JNUTA to complete one year in office as is the usual practice. It was decided that the process of election for the new JNUTA team will be initiated towards the second half of January, 2015 and the process should be completed in January itself.
2. JNUTA **congratulated the newly elected teacher members of the JNU EC** and hoped for coordination with them in various issues concerning the university.
3. The members were apprised of the **formation of CCTAD** (Co-ordination Committee of Teachers' Associations in Delhi) and the role of JNUTA in forming CCTAD. Members were informed that CCTAD has set up three committees to address the issues faced by the teaching community and the institutions of higher learning.
  - JNUTA members were requested to participate in the planned **Dharna** at Jantar-Mantar on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2014, under the banner of CCTAD to raise the problems of the teaching community and higher education.
  - The proposal for **holding a convention** on Challenges before Higher Education under the banner of CCTAD was approved. It was decided that in this convention, Teachers' Associations from across the country may be invited.
  - It was also decided that FEDCUTA may be revived and there be coordination with AIFCUTA to strengthen the teacher's movements in the country. It was mentioned that AIFUCTO has invited JNUTA President to its Convention in Chandigarh on November 15, 2014.
4. The matter regarding the proposed **Common Bill for all the Central Universities** was raised. It appears that the VC had formed a committee to give feedback and views of JNU on the Bill to MHRD. It has been resolved that VC should be asked to have representation of JNUTA in the committee and incorporate the views of the larger teaching community of the university on the proposed Bill.

It was decided that this matter would be also taken up at the proposed National Convention on Higher Education being organized by CCTAD.

5. Selection and appointment for **proposed new Chairs** in the university was taken up for discussion. It was reported that under the proposal, decision on selection for these Chairs would be taken by the Government only in consultation with the VC. JNUTA strongly disapproves of any such proposal which would bypass the established academic procedures of the University. JNUTA urges that in all the cases of selections for any Chairs, the respective Deans of Schools and Chairpersons and faculty members of the Centre should be consulted.
6. The **Minutes of the meeting between JNUTA and VC** held on 4th November, 2014 were circulated. These had already been emailed to the JNU faculty earlier. Secretary, JNUTA briefed the members about the outcome of the said meeting. It was appreciated that the VC agreed to all the demands of JNUTA and has agreed to act in a time bound matter. On critical matters (Administrative Reforms, Project Cell functioning and Traffic) he has agreed to set up Committees to give their recommendations in a time bound manner.
7. Regarding the issue of **CPF and GPF** it was reported that the VC has agreed that the University will take a position in the Court after consultation with the Lawyers and representatives of JNUTA.
8. He also mentioned that the Registrar has been asked to prepare a **new Citizens' Charter mentioning timelines** for each activity of JNU administration. It was agreed that responsibility be fixed for delays.
9. President, JNUTA reported that at the VC's request (in the meeting), JNUTA has nominated faculty members to each of the committees being set up.  
It was resolved that the VC be pressed to act soon and not delay the setting up of the Committees.
10. On the Issues of **API, CAS Promotion and IQAC**, the VC has agreed to have the Core Committee Report discussed in the AC. On the basis of the consensus there, the University would write to the UGC asking for modifications in the selection process suited to JNU needs.
  - Prof. Pramod Yadav, the Chairperson of the Core Committee, briefed the members about their suggestions recommended in the report.
  - It was reported that there would be representatives from Assistant and Associate Professors categories suggested by JNUTA who would be invited to IQAC.
11. Regarding **counting of the past service**, it was decided that no distinction be made between the services rendered in private and government teaching/research

institutions. Further, in cases of PDF, there should be a system of uniform weightage in the past service counting between service rendered within the country and abroad.

12. Regarding **promotion cases** which are becoming complex because of multiplicity of rules applicable to them, it was resolved that the matter be simplified and clear guidelines be issued. At present there are JNU rules and the combined rules of the old and new UGC Regulations which are creating much confusion.
  - It was decided that **a committee be immediately formed** to look into this matter and JNUTA should have representatives in it.
  - In many a cases, faculty members are unable to complete their required Orientation/Refreshers courses in time because of the academic load and for reasons beyond their control (like, applications not forwarded/non selection for the course). CAS promotion in such cases should be done from the due date of promotion and not from the date of completion of Orientation/Refreshers courses or date of interview.
  
13. President, JNUTA flagged the issues pertaining to **housing**. It was decided that remedy be found for the growing shortage of housing for the faculty members and hostels for the students. It was decided that all new construction be sensitive to the environmental needs of the campus.
  - JNUTA suggests the name of Prof. Saumitra Mukherjee for a new committee which the University should set up - **Planning for Campus Development**.
  - It was suggested that the Transit Houses should be converted into Towers to house more numbers of faculty members with minimum loss of green spaces.
  - Considering the water shortage due to growing demands, it was decided to recommend that more emphasis should be given on the **rain water harvesting**.
  - The ratio of distribution of **Type-IV houses** between faculty and non-faculty was considered in the GBM. It was decided to recommend that the existing ratio system in the distribution of Type – IV houses should be changed. There should be a common list for all those entitled for Type - IV houses like for Type -V & Type - VI. And, the list of seniority / priority should be prepared on the basis of date of eligibility in that category in JNU.
  
14. Regarding **health** related matters, members raised the problems they face which causes the community much harassment. It was decided to ask for more Staff and Doctors so as to reduce the harassment to all who visit the Centre.
  - It was decided to demand that the CGHS premises be shifted to a new building next to the Health Centre.

- Regarding the **option available** to retired employees, it was resolved that the University offer a choice to retired employees whether they would like to get treatment through JNU health centre or through the CGHS centre in their locality.
  - It was also resolved that initiatives should be taken to endow JNU health centre with **better infrastructure** related to diagnostics and testing facilities.
15. On the issues of **Infrastructure Development** in the campus it was decided to ask for more accommodation and better facilities for visitors to the university.
- It was decided that in public places within the campus more toilet facilities should be built particularly for the guards/security personals.
  - It was decided that JNUTA should demand creation of more infrastructure related to **Sports and physical fitness** apparatus, like, swimming pool in the campus and gymnasium in the faculty centre.
  - The shopping complex of JNU (**Kamal Complex**) is in a dilapidated state and has unhygienic conditions. It was decided to demand that immediate action be taken to improve the condition of the Shopping Complex.
16. On the **proposed deduction from PF** for the payment of excess interest it was resolved that JNU administration should find a solution to the problem since the interest earned on the fund belongs to the employees only. If the UGC with holds some funds then these should be made up via the excess fund already accrued in the PF account through the higher interest earned from invested PF money in the past.
17. On the proposed hike in **electricity tariff** it was resolved to demand that JNU should not charge for electricity from its residents at the commercial/bulk rate. Instead provision should be made to charge for electricity from all the employees as per the domestic rates.
- Steps be urgently taken to have the matter resolved for electricity consumption in residential areas by approaching the electricity authorities for rectification.
  - JNUTA also places on record that its nominees were not on the committee which resolved that the electricity charges from residents be raised.
18. On the allocation of **UPE-II money** to the faculty members it was pointed out that some arbitrary criterion was used for allocating money for the individual and interdisciplinary group projects. The rationale for the allocation of an arbitrary amount to all, irrespective of the need of the project was rejected.
- It was resolved that the faculty members who have not applied for projects should also get financial assistance for personal research/academic advancement

out of the UPE-II money. This could be for specified infrastructure, books purchase, etc.

- The sanctioned money for foreign trip for faculty of SIS and other faculty members are quite irrational and inadequate. This matter should be relooked and rational norms should be evolved in this respect.

19. On the issue of implementation of **HAG for senior professors** there were differences of opinion among the members present. A three members committee consisting of Prof. D. K. Lobiyal, Prof. Surajit Mazumdar and Prof. Parnal Chirmuley was formed. The committee was asked to prepare a report which would be placed before the JNUTA EC and then circulated for wider discussion in JNU so as to help the community evolve a more reasoned position.

Secretary, JNUTA.