



जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय शिक्षक संघ
Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association
New Delhi-110067

November 19, 2018

Following resolutions were passed unanimously in the JNUTA Emergency General Body Meeting held on November 19, 2018.

RESOLUTION 1: Immediate withdrawal of arbitrary Circulars regarding the Rescheduling the Academic Calendar and Compliance of Faculty Attendance

The JNUTA General Body strongly condemns the ongoing efforts of the JNU administration to destroy the teaching and learning culture at the University. JNU has been one of the top performing Universities in India and is globally acclaimed for the education it imparts. This recognition of JNU is organically linked with the teaching learning practices in JNU.

The current Vice Chancellor of JNU has taken decisions that alter these practices in substantial manner in the last two years years –admission criteria have been diluted, methods of evaluation have been changed to make them unfavorable to students, pedagogical practices have been mangled, hiring practices have been altered, rules and practices that ensure access of JNU education to individuals and groups who come from marginalized sections have been damaged, curriculum of existing courses have been changed and new programs have been introduced, and well established practices of participative learning in the classrooms have been altered.

All this has happened - without ONCE the VC providing any reason or argument for making these changes; without ONCE approving these changes through statutory processes; without ONCE debating these changes in academic decision making bodies; without ONCE defending these in changes in public fora; and without ONCE listening to the views of students and teachers of the University who are behind this well performing University.

It is now clear that ONLY intention of the Vice Chancellor is to tarnish the national and international image of JNU, take away the joys of learning, thinking and teaching freely and more fundamentally alter education in JNU such that it is no longer of meaningful and accessible to those who come from disadvantaged social groups and marginalized sections.

Teachers and the students of this University have been fighting this sinister design of this administration on an everyday basis for more than two years now. However, the onslaught continues. In a recent circular dated November 13, 2018 the administration has further announced that proposals for seminar participation, conference travel, project meetings,

prestigious fellowships, including those scheduled during vacations will be allowed if teachers COMPLY with the diktats of the University. You will be allowed to teach, conduct research and reimburse your medical bills if you FALL IN LINE and do not question the diktats of the “competent authority”. The General Body condemns in strongest possible terms the punitive ways of enforcing these arbitrary decisions on teachers.

It must be noted that none of these circulars and notices follow from any provisions of the JNU Act, statutes and ordinances and hence are without any lawful substance. This General Body of JNUTA seeks justification for diluting and changing the well-established practices of accountability built in the JNU Act, Statutes and Ordinances. It also seeks rationale and public defense of altering the well enforced participation of students in learning process to mere reducing classrooms to compulsory attendance. **The General Body demands that the circulars regarding the Rescheduling the Academic Calendar and Compliance of Faculty Attendance dated November 5 and 13, 2018** respectively be immediately withdrawn by the Executive Council of the University which is scheduled to meet tomorrow, i.e. November 20, 2018.

Resolution 2: **Installation of Biometric Machines in the University**

The JNUTA General Body strongly opposes the installation of biometric machines in the University. The General Body in its earlier statements has already pointed out that this entire process is devoid of any ethical or procedural sanctity. It once again reiterates that biometric attendance is a part of the onslaught on the public funded higher education institutions that has been packaged through the imposition of graded-autonomy to the University that JNU community has never agreed to.

The Informational Technology (Reasonable Security Practices and Procedures and Sensitive Personal Data or Information) Rules, 2011 issued by the Central Government under the Information Technology Act, 2000 make it clear that such “sensitive personal data and information” should only be gathered if the “collection of the sensitive personal data or information is considered necessary for the purpose.” The GBM finds no necessity whatsoever for this measure, and none to have been demonstrated.

Further these Rules also make it clear that the implementation of a biometric system is predicated and contingent on consent. Together with the clause mandating the adoption of a privacy and usage policy (none of which has been done), clause 5(1) states that “body corporate or any person on its behalf shall obtain consent in writing through letter or Fax or email”. Clause 5(7) makes it clear that an option for refusal and withdrawal of consent must be offered to providers. The GBM notes that no such consent has been asked for nor options provided.

The GBM also records its apprehension that biometric measures also bring to the fore issues of privacy. The Supreme Court of India in *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India*, (2017) 10 SCC 1, has declared that “the right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right

to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution.” Any coercion of individual citizens through the threat of administrative strictures for non-compliance is a violation of the letter and spirit of the judgment of the Hon’ble Supreme Court.

Finally, given the myriad possibilities of the misuse of collected and storing biometric data, as has already illustrated in several recent Court judgements, **the JNUTA GBM comprehensively rejects the system of biometric attendance.**

Resolution 3: Compromise with the JNU Entrance Examination due to the hasty implementation of the Computer Based Online process

The General body notes with deep dismay the serious lapses on the part of the administration regarding the JNU entrance examination. It is for the first time in the history of JNU that the JNU Entrance Examination is not taking place on its scheduled dates. Despite the recommendation of its own Committee and despite the objections raised by several Centres, the Administration has remained adamant on conducting a Computer based Online Examination in the MCQ format for all courses.

JNU’s unique interdisciplinary character requires an entrance exam that is designed not just to test the domain knowledge across disciplines but also to test analytical capability through a combination of techniques. This pattern, and the fact that the entrance examination is conducted in 72 centres spread across 54 cities, through pen-paper mode and often answered in several regional languages, has ensured that the University has been able to fulfil the regional diversity and social representation mandated by the JNU Act. Computer based online tests at computer terminals in cities with poor power supply and erratic and unstable internet connections will not only restrict access to students from remote areas and marginal sections of society but also prove as a great deterrent. The decision of the JNU administration to delay the JNUEE proves that it is hell bent on destroying JNU admission process. The JNUTA GBM holds that the JNUEE process must not be derailed in this fashion and demands that the JNUEE be held on the designated dates using the offline pen and paper test. The committee examining the matter of

Computer based online entrance exam in JNU was completely silent on the matter of costs and the arising financial liabilities to the university. JNUTA has already pointed out to the Administration earlier that this concern raised by several members of the Academic Council was not recorded in the minutes of the meeting. JNU teachers and staff have conducted this large exercise efficiently year after year without any complaints. It is also being estimated that the financial burden of the proposed Computer based online entrance exam involving a third party would be much higher than that of the existing system which involves only the expenditure on the JNU staff for conducting the exam. The administration has failed to explain satisfactorily the need to outsource it to third party, which it seems has not been identified and finalised yet. **The JNUTA GBM demands a full disclosure of all**

the tender documents before the Academic Council and also the rationale behind such decisions.

Resolution 4: Immediate restoration of the statutory functioning of Dean, School of Social Sciences

The JNUTA General Body is shocked at the last minute cancellation of the 95th meeting of the Board of Studies of the School of Social Sciences, scheduled on November 13, 2018 and shares the anguish of the members of the Board, who have expressed serious concerns with the functioning of the School of Social Sciences, ever since Prof. Pradipta K. Choudhury, has taken over as Dean, SSS. More than 50 members constituting roughly two-thirds of the total, had submitted six resolutions to the Dean's office to be placed and discussed. However, the Dean, instead of discussing these urgent issues, decided to postpone the meeting half an hour before the meeting was scheduled to begin. Subsequently, the members of the Board of Studies as per the clause 3 (c) of the Academic Ordinance 7, have also submitted a requisition for the meeting. But the Dean seems to have ignored that as well. The General Body demands that the statutory functioning of Dean, SSS be immediately restored and necessary actions, to save the academic future of the prestigious School of Social Sciences, be initiated at the earliest in the upcoming Executive Council Meeting.

Resolution 5: Rejection of all steps towards graded autonomy.

The JNUTA GBM notes with alarm and condemnation the unilateral steps being taken by the JNU administration to bring into force the regime envisaged by the UGC Graded Autonomy Regulations, 2018. It opposes these steps being taken through Executive Council decisions, about which the larger university community is informed only through administration press releases or the media, and condemns the JNU administration for moving in a direction towards privatisation of education. The recent information that JNU will now have a satellite campus for which private funding will be sought, introduce new skill-based online courses without any approval (in which all policies of affirmative action and reservation can be flouted), invite persons with no academic qualification or scholarship as visiting scholars/professors (as has been done in the Centre for Media Studies recently), allow for differential rates of remuneration for visiting faculty for different schools (whereas a visiting professor in the other schools of JNU receives Rs. 50,000, in the management school, the remuneration fixed is Rs. 250,000 per month!) — all of these flow from specific clauses of the UGC Regulations on graded autonomy. Biometric machines, online examinations, fee hikes, and the HEFA loan, all follow from the MoU that is to be signed with MHRD, and these regulations. **The JNUTA GBM rejects all of these steps, and conveys to the JNU administration that well may it seek to distract the JNU**

teaching community by circulars that alter our conditions of service and leave and attendance, the GBM is steadfast in its rejection of graded autonomy.

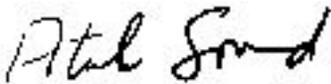
Resolution 6: Extends Support to the Call for Nation with Farmers

JNUTA General Body extends support to the call given by over 200 farmer and agricultural workers organisations for a march to Parliament on 29-30 November 2018. The GBM decided that the teachers of JNU will stand in solidarity with the farmers and workers demanding a special session of parliament to focus solely on the agrarian crisis and participate in the march.

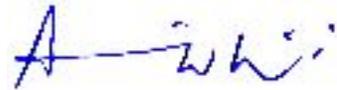
PROPOSED ACTION PLAN

To this effect, this General Body proposes to:

1. JNUTA to lead a mass delegation of teachers to submit a memorandum of demands to the members of the JNU Executive Council that is scheduled to meet tomorrow, i.e. November 20, 2018 at 10.30 AM at the steps of the administrative block.
2. JNUTA to hold a one day conference before the end of the current semester outside the University and JNU faculty to apply for en masse duty leave on that day.
3. If the coercive and punitive circulars mentioned in the memorandum of demands are not withdrawn by the JNU Executive Council in its meeting tomorrow, JNUTA General Body reaffirmed its commitment not to take this brazen assault on the University and the contemptuous treatment of teachers lying down and will intensify its struggle.



Atul Sood
President, JNUTA



Avinash Kumar
Secretary, JNUTA