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Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association
New Delhi-110067

JNUTA PRESS STATEMENT

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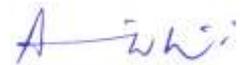
The JNUTA takes strong objections to the **contemptuous way in which the JNU Administration continues to treat the highest academic decision-making body of the University, namely the Academic Council**. An emergency meeting of the Academic Council scheduled for December 7, 2018 was notified a few days ago but the agenda was circulated only on December 6, 2018 after 4 p.m. This is **blatant violation of Regulation M1 of the university** which states that “Items for the agenda shall be circulated to the members of the Council at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting.” The consequence of this is that members of the Academic Council will have no time to apply their minds to the matters being taken up or to consult their colleagues whom they represent in the Council as Chairpersons and Deans. This is not the first time this has happened after Professor M. Jagadesh Kumar took over as Vice Chancellor. Indeed, **the Vice-Chancellor has also repeatedly violated another provision of Regulation M1 which stipulates that at least two regular meetings of the Academic Council be held every semester**. In the six semesters that have passed since the VC assumed office, **only 8 regular meetings have been called against the minimum of 12 and most of them have been during the vacations**. The proceedings of these meetings have also been repeatedly characterized by high handedness and undemocratic conduct by the Chair. Even as the real members of the Council are thus being disenfranchised in multiple ways, the list of ‘special’ invitees called to the meetings to act as the clapping brigade of the Administration goes on increasing from meeting to meeting – the last time there were 22 such invitees. Further, even the practice of inviting the JNUTA Secretary and JNUSU representatives, derived from statutory provisions, has been discarded.

A shocking indictment of JNU Administration and its **misgovernance and bankruptcy is its own proposal now to postpone the JNU entrance exam from December 2018 to May 2019**. Despite the recommendation of its own Committee and despite repeated objections raised by several Centres, the Administration remained adamant on imposing a straightjacket model of online MCQ tests on diverse disciplines and programmes without any consideration of its academic merit and of its implications for access of different sections of society to the University. The administration kept pressurizing and threatening the teachers to prepare MCQs without giving them adequate justifications or time for preparation. Such was its hurry to impose one more of its diktats on the faculty of the University that it predictably failed to do its own groundwork – the result of that is there for all to see. The **JNUTA once again reiterates its demand that the University administration takes into account the concerns raised by the teaching community about the MCQ based online exam and withdraw its insistence on imposing it on the whole University**. **The JNU entrance examination can be conducted in its time-tested way and the faculty of the University would be more than willing to undertake the evaluation work necessary to ensure that admissions for 2019-20 are not delayed.**

The JNUTA also expresses strong opposition to the continuous violations of JNU Statutes by the Dean of the School of Social Sciences and his spate of illegal actions. More than 50 per cent of members of the School Board of Studies (BoS), a statutory body, had requisitioned a special meeting of the BoS as per Clause 3 (c) of Ordinance 7 within a week on November 13, 2018. This was after the earlier scheduled meeting was cancelled by the Dean without specifying any reason and the Dean had already violated the Ordinance several times over by repeatedly failing to call meetings of the BoS at the stipulated frequency over three semesters. The Dean, however, once again chose to violate the Ordinance by not calling the requisitioned meeting and instead called his own meeting on December 5, 2018 and that too at the unprecedented time of 9 a.m. He then refused to bring on the agenda the matters raised in the requisition and did not allow members to speak on them. He also ignored protests at the exclusion of the student members from the meeting, even though such representation is a statutory requirement. He unilaterally began declaring items passed despite members saying that their approval cannot be assumed. About three fourths (48 members) of those present therefore passed a resolution stating that no legitimate meeting of the BoS took place and decided to boycott the meeting. Prof. Pradipta Choudhary's continuation as Dean of the largest school of the University has become untenable under these circumstances as there is absolutely no question about the fact that he has utterly lost the confidence of his colleagues.



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