

Appeal to JNU Community

14 February 2017

It is time for the University community to come forward and save the institution from detractors and agitators who appear hellbent upon making JNU dysfunctional. Ever since the evening of 9 February 2017, the entire Administration building is under seize by JNUSU led students occupying the space inside the building and some other student groups blocking entry and exit from outside.

Hundreds of staff and officers, including the Vice Chancellor, are debarred from carrying out their day-to-day work by just a small number of unruly students. The Administration has made repeated efforts to convince these students that they must end this seize of administrative building and refrain from undemocratic and unlawful means of protest that has hampered the interests of a vast majority of JNU students, staff, teachers and others.

Instead of seeking an appointment with the VC to discuss issues and concerns, the demand to talk to the VC in a public place in the presence of all agitating students is not only unfair but also unproductive.

On Friday night (10 Feb 2017) Prof. S.C. Garkoti (Rector-2) and Prof. Ranapratap Singh (DoS) met the agitating students and requested them not to continue with the unlawful occupation of the administrative building.

On Feb 11th (Saturday), at 11 am, Prof. Ranapratap Singh (DoS) and Dr. Pramod Kumar (Registrar) met the same group of agitating students and requested them yet again not to continue with the undemocratic and illegal occupation of the administrative building. Same day again at 1 PM, Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra (Rector-1) and Prof. S.C. Garkoti (Rector-2) went to meet the students and requested them to end the occupation of the administrative building and adopt constructive dialogue as the means to address their concerns, but the students were persistent in refusing to do so.

On 13 February 2017, Prof. S.C. Garkoti (Rector-2), Prof. Ranapratap Singh (DoS) and Dr. Pramod Kumar (Registrar) went to the administrative building at 10 am to discuss with the students and facilitate a meeting between the students and the JNU administration, including the VC. The three officials requested the students to vacate the administrative building first and give a list of student representatives who would like to meet the JNU administration. The officials

assured the students that the JNU administration would provide the responses to their queries and concerns. There was also media during this meeting between the officials and the students. However, the students refused to vacate the administrative building and continued with illegal occupation of the administration building from inside as well as outside. When the VC office gave an appointment to meet the student representatives on 13 February 2017 at 9.00 am, it was rebuffed in the presence of the national media!

On Friday (10 Feb), more than 250 staff could not just enter the administrative building. The same situation prevailed on Monday (13 Feb) and Tuesday too. As a result several important works of the University have been seriously and adversely affected. Many files related to medical reimbursements, fellowship documents, PhD theses, payments related to seminars, payment of salaries to contractual labourers could not be processed. Several official visitors from outside could not enter the administrative building, important matters related to national and international academic collaborations and MoUs could not be discussed.

This illegal occupation of the administrative building is a criminal offense since a government building is occupied and government employees are prevented from doing their duties by the agitating students. In spite of our best efforts to convince the students to end this unlawful activity, they are adamant and refusing to cooperate.

This is hampering the functioning of the University very severely.

With regard to 2016 UGC gazette notification on MPhil and PhD admissions, we have amply made it clear in all our previous meetings that it is mandatory for all Universities to follow. The UGC too has confirmed this. As explained in the attached note by the Director of Admissions, our admission policy includes all the socially inclusive past practices of JNU within the parameters of the UGC gazette notification. Relaxation in qualifying marks to different categories, deprivation points etc., are all included. This year, 36 additional districts are also added to the list of quartile districts for determining deprivation points.

With regard to student intake, the number of vacancies in MPhil and PhD are tied to the number of faculty on roll in the University. From the coming session, the number of vacancies will be calculated based on the upper caps given in 2016 UGC gazette.

The number of MPhil and PhD Students with many faculty is far in excess of the limits stipulated in the UGC gazette notification, while a large number of

faculty have a significant number of vacancies - well below the stipulated upper cap. In the coming session, although faculty with large number of students already working under their supervision will not be able to take additional students, they will surely be able to supervise new students when the existing students submit their thesis.

The upper limit of 8/6/4 (Prof./ Assoc. Prof./ Asst. Prof) for PhD students and 3/2/1 (Prof./Assoc.Prof./Asst.Prof) for MPhil will be implemented in 2017-18 admissions and onwards. Any problems that may arise during the transition period during next few years will be handled within the frame work of 2016 UGC gazette notification. If negative seats are shown in some Schools or Centers, it is only because JNU did not follow the 2009 UGC gazette notification which also specifies similar upper caps on the admission of MPhil and PhD students.

The vacancies in MPhil and PhD are dynamic since it is related to the number of faculty on roll which in turn changes depending on number of students submitting the theses and also on how many faculty retire and how many new faculty join each year.

In summary, (1) it is mandatory for all Universities to follow 2016 UGC gazette notification on MPhil and PhD admissions, (2) The new JNU admission policy is within the framework of UGC gazette notification; (3) JNU retains all the socially inclusive admission procedures of JNU; and (4) the MPhil and PhD vacancies will be calculated based on the upper caps specified in the UGC gazette notification.

With the above clarification on the admission procedure, the agitating students are again requested to end the illegal occupation of the administrative building and let the university function. The VC and the JNU administration are always available for a meaningful discussion with the student representatives.

The JNU Administration appeals to the entire JNU Community to engage in efforts towards defusing the current unhealthy and unlawful agitation. If we succeed in doing so, other legal and administrative steps to end the unlawful blockade of the administrative building can be avoided.

Any individual faculty member or student interested in meeting the VC and the JNU administration are most welcome to meet and share their views.

With warm regards,
M. Jagadesh Kumar