



JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION

Oct 13, 2016

JNUTA Statement on Academic Council

JNUTA thanks each member of AC for having participated in a vibrant, well-structured and stimulating debate on the agenda items and for having arrived at the most appropriate logical conclusion on the debated agenda items on 7 October. Following lengthy discussions on certain issues and due to paucity of time the meeting was adjourned around 9.45 PM. We are sure that the esteemed Council members would further contribute to the deliberations when the meeting is reconvened and issues are discussed.

However, it was saddening and surprising to see selective and motivated false news appearing in the media about the deliberations of the AC, especially in relation to the certificate courses from the Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies. Contrary to reports that these were rejected by the AC, the truth is that one course (Computational Linguistics) was approved and two other courses (Yoga Philosophy and Indian Culture) received wonderful suggestions and it was decided that the Centre might improve the courses in the light of suggestions made and then come back to the Academic Council. At no stage the proposal were rejected outright. In fact, many members suggested that after substantive modification these may be introduced as optional courses so that students from other Centres and Schools in JNU would be able to study these in the Sanskrit Centre.

More importantly, we believe that partial and misguided media reports undermine the academic integrity of JNU and its functioning. Media reports maligning teachers have been aired owing to false and anonymous feeds. It is further saddening to inform you that despite repeated clarifications from JNUTA President and colleagues, a police complaint alleging JNUTA executive and individual teachers, including those who were not present, of provoking students to act against a teacher has been lodged. They are accused of pre-meditated instigation of criminal intimidation and 'murderous attack on life and property' of another colleague. The complaint suggests a link between the deliberations inside the AC and the commotion outside (alleged "murderous attack").

It is once again being made explicitly clear that the JNUTA or its members have never approved of any violence (physical, verbal or emotional) against anyone and any allegation of instigation is completely baseless.

We are sure that colleagues on their wisdom (especially those present in the meeting) do understand that who is trying to intimidate whom. We assure everyone that JNUTA will never be silenced by the old, tried and failed bullying tactics. It will stand up to its responsibility to defend and promote the collective interests of teachers and the University of which they are an integral and important part. JNUTA stands with each member in ensuring that their individual academic voice is not suppressed by falsehood and slanderous campaigns using legal and extra legal means.

We urge upon every colleague to continue and ensure informed, democratic and open-minded discussions on issues of academic importance to the university.

Sd/-

Prof. Ajay Patnaik
President, JNUTA

Sd/-

Dr. Bikramaditya Choudhary
Secretary, JNUTA