
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

26 February 2017

On the illegal occupation of administrative building

The illegal occupation and blockade of JNU administrative building by a small group of wayward students has entered 18th day today. This is an unmistakable disgrace to the ethos of JNU which values freedom of speech and expression, debate and discussion. What these students have done to the University since 9 February is not only illegitimate but also constitutes grave misconduct. The University community, which includes karamcharis, staff, officers, faculty and more than 8500 students have patiently waited hoping that better sense prevails over these errants who have taken the University to ransom. More than a dozen times, top officials of the administration, officers' association, staff association, SC & ST staff association, scores of faculty members met these agitating students and appealed to them to end their seize of the administrative building. But these students have consistently rejected their appeals and persistently continued their disruptive conduct.

During several rounds of discussions with the agitating students, efforts were made to convey to them that:

- (1) the 2016 UGC gazette notification is "binding" on all central universities,
- (2) the 2016 UGC gazette notification was circulated in advance to members of the relevant statutory bodies, such as the Academic Council, and subsequently due process of approvals was followed.
- (3) all the progressive and inclusive admission policies (such as deprivation points, concessions to OBC (10%) and SC & ST (30%) in the qualifying marks of the entrance test) have been retained within the frame work of the 2016 UGC gazette notification,
- (4) the 2016 UGC gazette notification is not retrospective and, therefore, all the students who have already been admitted in M.Phil and Ph.D programs will not be affected.
- (5) there will be no seat cut in M.Phil and Ph.D programs in the forthcoming academic session. Except those faculty, who are supervising more than the UGC prescribed upper cap [8 (Prof) / 6 (Assoc. Prof.) / 4 (Asst. Prof.)] in Ph.D and [3 (Prof) / 2 (Assoc. Prof.) / 1 (Asst. Prof.)] in M.Phil, all the other faculty who are supervising less than the UGC prescribed upper cap will admit students.
- (6) with the excess number of students who are already working in University and the new students to be admitted in July 2017, the total number of M.Phil and Ph.D students in the University will be far in excess of the upper cap of students prescribed by UGC. Thus the rumours of "seat cut" is a figment of imagination or a deliberate misinformation campaign.
- (6) the number of students who can be admitted into M.Phil and Ph.D programs will depend on the number of vacancies available with each faculty and the number of faculty on the roll of the University. Therefore, the number of students who will be admitted into M.Phil and Ph.D students cannot be the same every year and it will vary from year to year.

(7) the University has already advertised more than 300 faculty positions and as the faculty recruitment takes place, the number of students who can be admitted in M.Phil and Ph.D programs will accordingly increase.

In spite of all the above clarifications, the agitating students are unyielding and have taken law into their hands by criminally occupying the administrative building, causing enormous financial loss to the university and serious damages to the academic activities. The impact of this agitation on karamcharis, staff and even the large number of contractual labourers seems to be beyond the comprehension of the self-seeking agitators.

The University has suffered enormously due to this unjustifiable and illegitimate occupation of the administrative building and the agitating students are solely responsible for this. The JNU administration and its community have been using all possible peaceful and lawful means to convince the agitating students to end their unlawful activity. We will continue to use these means till the agitating students end their occupation and blockade so that the staff, officers and the administrative officials start working to complete the huge backlog of work. The JNU administration as usual is more than willing to talk to student representatives in a cordial atmosphere in the administrative building.

However, if the agitating students continue with their mindless occupation and blockade of administrative building, they have to face other legal actions that may be resorted to for the protection of the interests of the University and its stakeholders.


(Dean of Students)