

JNUTA: General Body Meeting 26th July 2016

Resolutions

The General Body of the JNUTA expresses in the strongest of terms its anger at the continuous display of a high handed attitude by the JNU Administration under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor.

The GBM condemns the completely unwarranted decision of the VC to suspend a faculty member and Vice-president of the JNUTA, Dr. Ashish Agnihotri. The GBM is clear that this suspension and framing of an article of charge against Dr. Agnihotri were completely unnecessary to deal with the underlying issue and these moves smacks of vindictiveness and victimization. Clearly the University Administration through this measure is trying to threaten the entire teaching community into submission. The GBM, however, assures the University Administration that this will only strengthen the resolve of teachers to unitedly resist the attempts to establish an authoritarian structure of functioning in JNU. The GBM demands immediate revocation of the suspension order and a dignified settlement of the matter.

The nefarious designs of the University Administration and the VC are also clearly apparent in the VC's insistence on continuing with the new discretionary system of appointment of Deans and Chairpersons, which is exemplified by the decision taken with regard to Chairpersonship of the Special Centre for Nano Sciences and the continuation of the degrading and demeaning practice of making individual faculty members present their 'vision' before being considered for appointment as Chairperson. These have happened despite the overwhelming opinion of the JNU faculty in favour of the long-standing system of rotation based on seniority having been put on record through the resolutions of centres and schools and assurances from the JNU Administration and the VC gave both orally and in writing that no amendment was intended to be made in the system of appointment. The JNUTA GBM therefore demands an immediate formal withdrawal of the circular on appointment of Chairpersons and Deans issued in March 2016.

The General Body also notes that there have been a number of other instances during the course of the last two months where faculty in general, centres and individual faculty members have been subjected to coercive action of one or the other kind. Students who had been targeted with reference to the February 9 incidents were also subject to a fresh attack with the University Administration originally blocking their registration in clear contravention of court orders, a position from which they were eventually forced to beat a hasty retreat.