

Key Findings of Students led survey on JNU Mandatory Attendance Policy

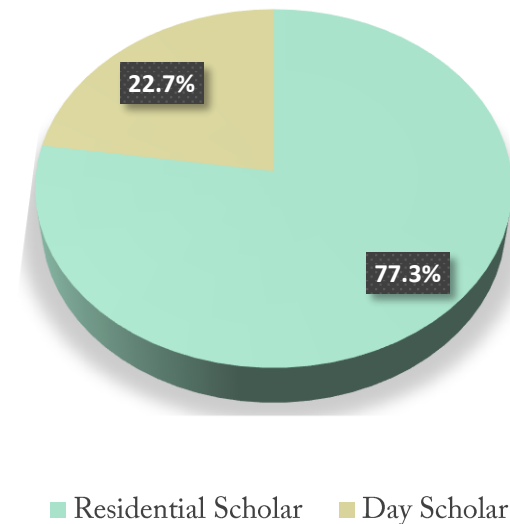
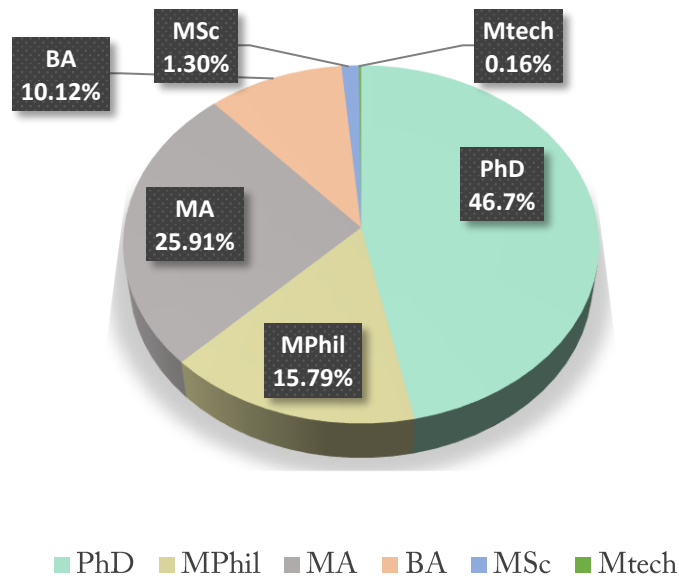
The JNU Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar has in multiple interviews claimed that only a few politically charged students have been protesting the new attendance rules. We were intrigued by such claims since the number of people protesting the rule and boycotting attendance was definitely more than a 100. We also understood, in our discussions with the JNU community at large that even amongst those who were signing, everyone had different reasons. The nature and language of the notification released on 08.02.2018 promised punitive measures on students who fail to meet attendance requirements. This led to an increase in the number of students who decided to sign, even though they were principally opposed to the rule itself.

This survey was carried out to measure quantitative and qualitative responses of students to the Mandatory Attendance Policy. It was restricted to JNU students only and in order to prevent people from submitting multiple entries, entries were restricted to one email account.

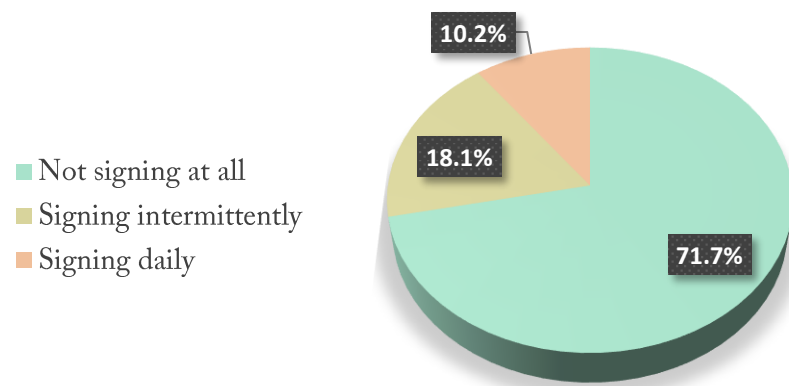
Findings:

We got a total of 1249 responses over a period of 7 days.

Responses were received from registered students enrolled in the following courses and both residential and day scholars:



On the question of how many are signing daily, how many have signed intermittently and how many have not signed at all the findings contradict the claims made by the JNU administration.



Thus we found that 10.2% (127) are signing daily and 18.1% (226) are signing intermittently, while 71.7% (896) respondents are not signing at all. In order to understand why students were choosing to sign or not sign we asked them to state the reasons for their choices.

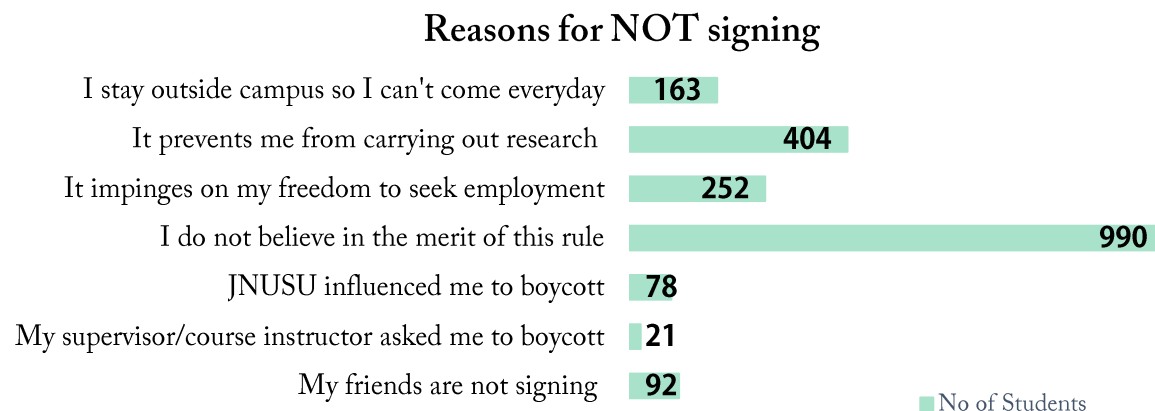
For those who are signing daily or intermittently the major reasons were:

Reasons for signing

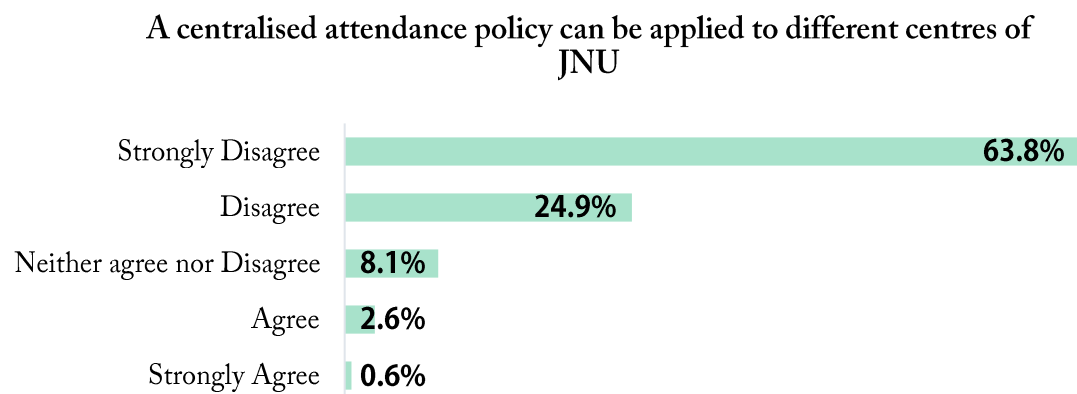


It must be noted that only 22 respondents thought that the rule is good. A large number (264) students who may be signing daily or intermittently pointed out that they are afraid of losing their hostel facilities, scholarships and degrees.

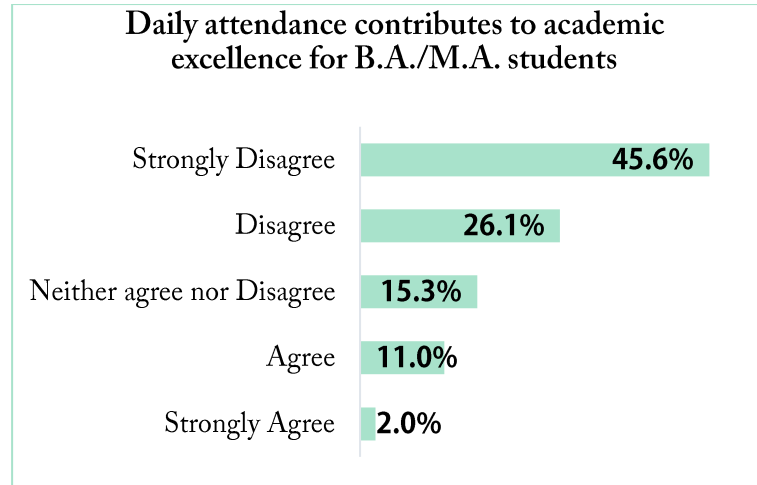
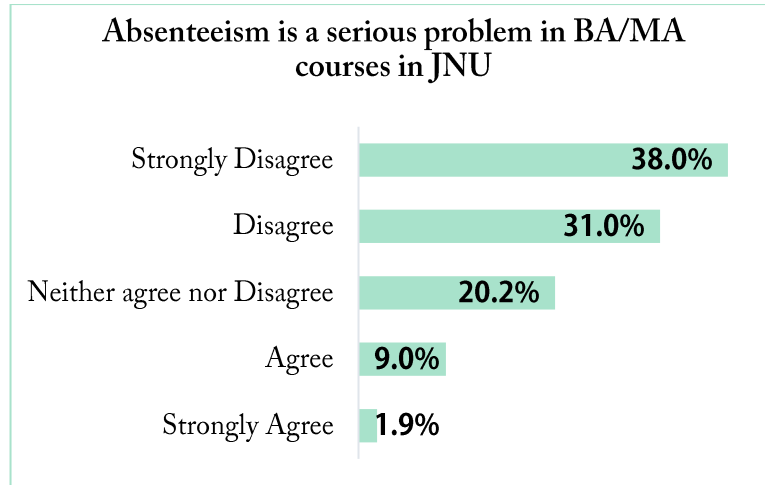
Those not signing stated the following reasons:



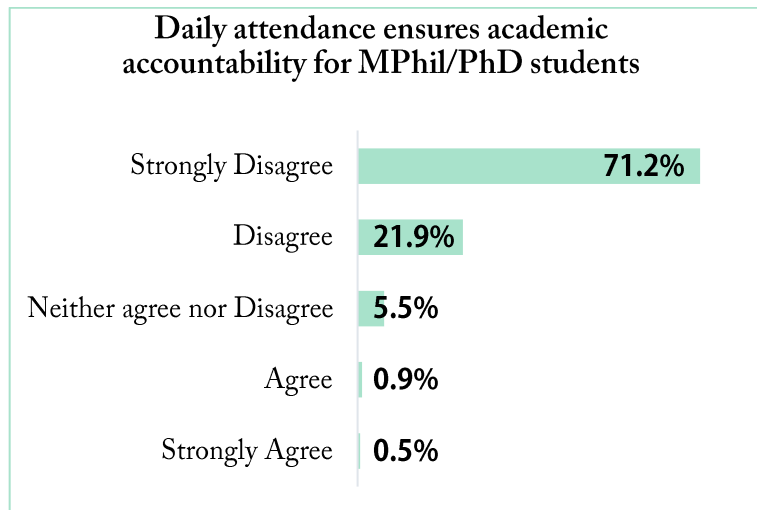
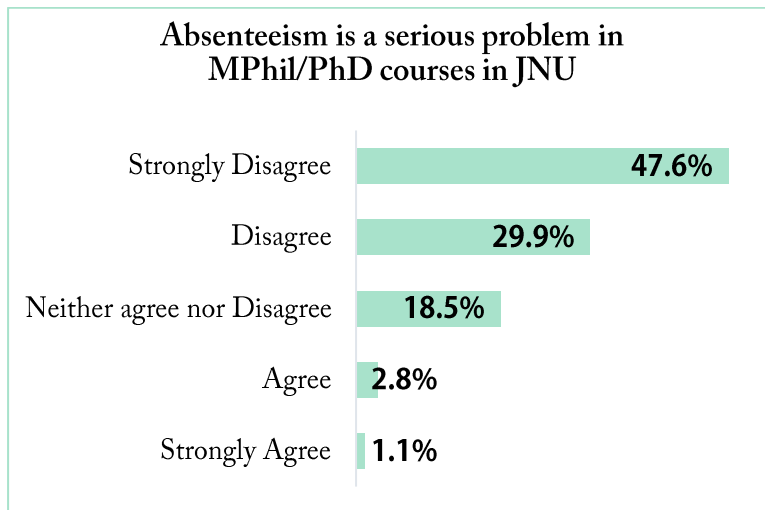
The results of the survey found that to a large extent students are not averse to accountability, but are against 'daily compulsory attendance' as a measure of accountability. Most respondents felt that a uniform centralized system of attendance for a research-oriented university known for its interdisciplinary focus does more harm than being a good measure of accountability.



On the questions regarding whether absenteeism is a serious problem in BA/MA courses in JNU and whether daily attendance contributes to academic excellence for these courses:

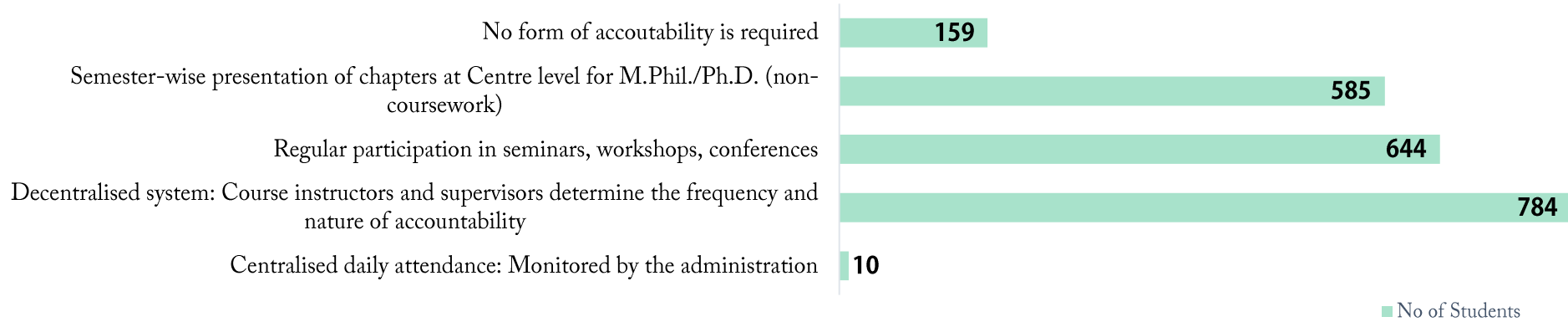


On the questions regarding whether absenteeism is a serious problem in MPhil/PhD courses in JNU and whether daily attendance ensures academic accountability for these courses:

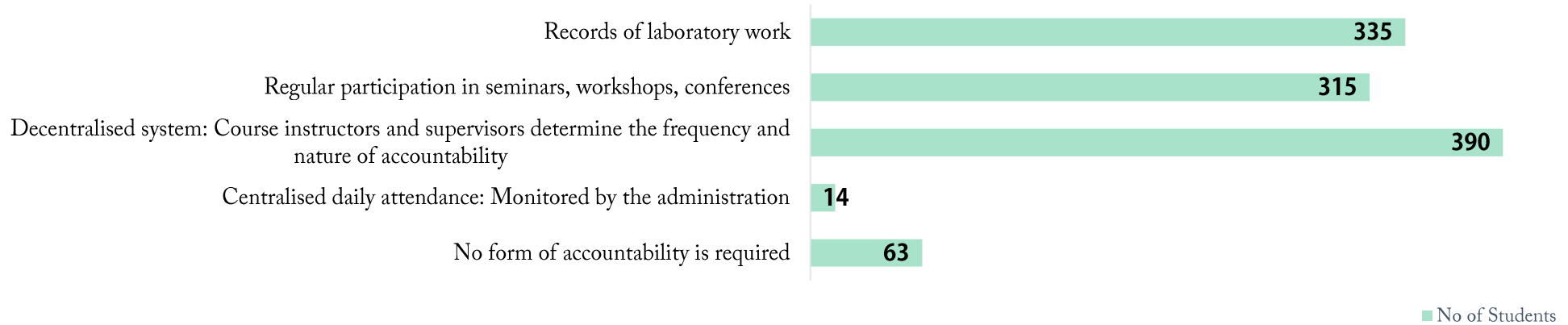


The following were suggested as some measures of accountability which actually help in timely completion and high standards of research:

Measures of academic accountability viable for Social Science/Humanities students

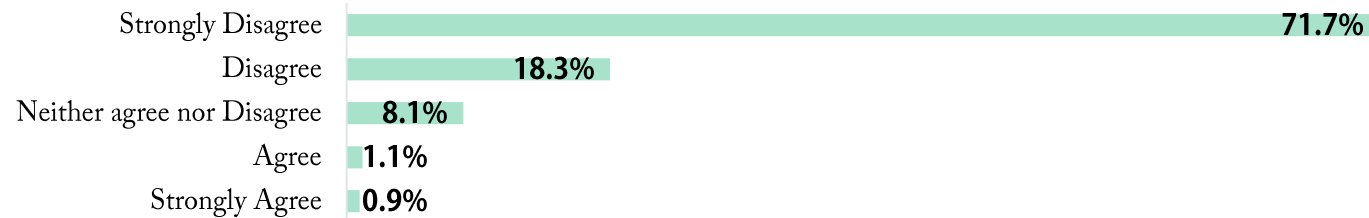


Measures of accountability viable for Science students

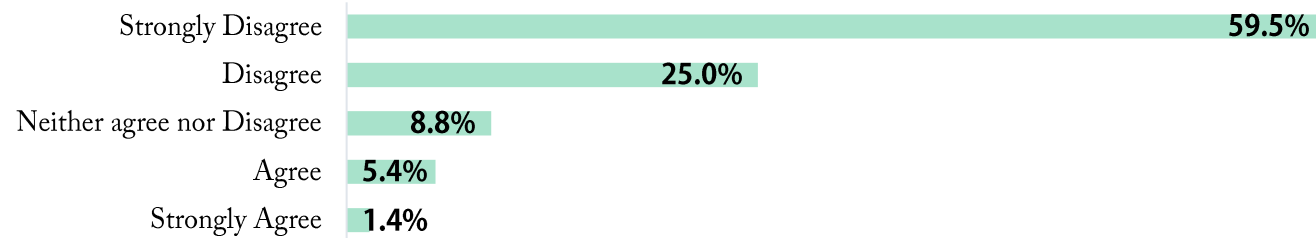


On the Conduct of the 144th AC meeting held on 1.12.2017, the nature of notifications issued and the administration's response to concerns of students:

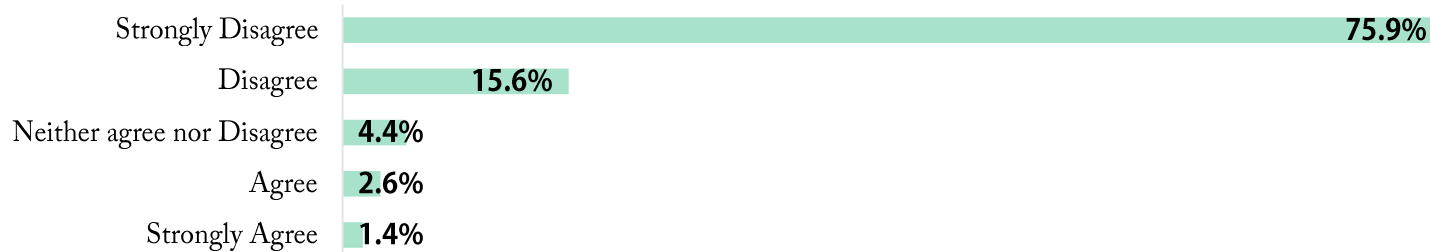
Attendance rule was passed in a proper manner in accordance with due processes enumerated in the JNU Academic Rules and Regulations



There has been clarity in the conditions of the attendance rule and there is no confusion regarding punishments etc.

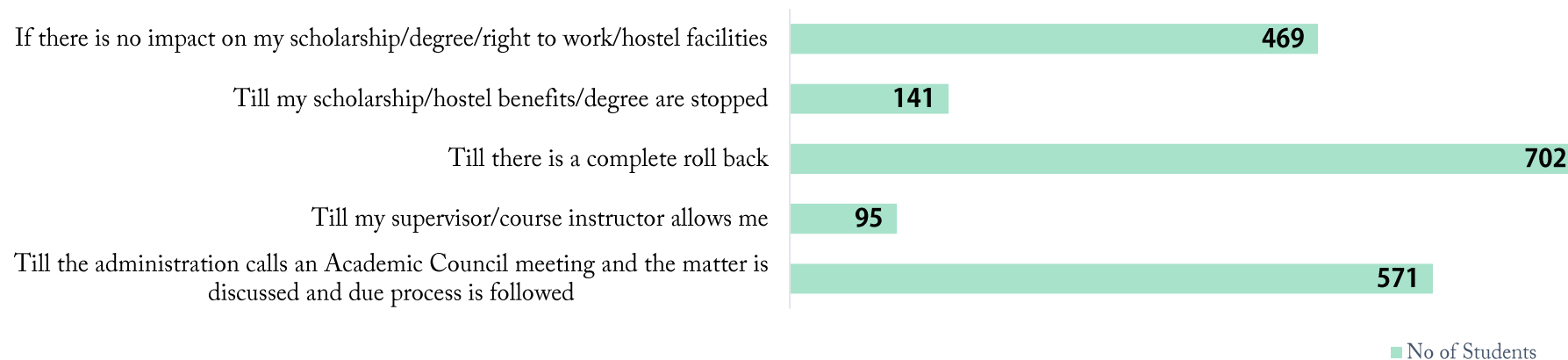


JNU administration has been responsive in trying to address the concerns of students regarding the attendance rules



The survey also inquired as to what degree to those boycotting are willing to sustain their boycott and those signing intermittently are willing to boycott if their scholarships/hostel facilities and degree are not threatened.

Willing to boycott attendance



Finally, the administration has been asserting that the few students who are boycotting attendance are doing so under the influence of the JNUSU. The findings of the survey state otherwise.

Only a few students are protesting this rule and they are either politically motivated or misled by political parties/JNUSU

