

KAVITA SINGH  
PROFESSOR AND DEAN  
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND AESTHETICS  
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY  
NEW DELHI 110067 INDIA

[ksingh@mail.jnu.ac.in](mailto:ksingh@mail.jnu.ac.in), [kavising@gmail.com](mailto:kavising@gmail.com) +91 11 26704061

---

27 December 2017

To  
Shri Pramod Kumar  
Registrar and Secretary to the Academic Council  
Jawaharlal Nehru University

Dear Shri Pramod Kumar,

**Comments and Dissent regarding the 144<sup>th</sup> Academic Council Meeting**

Thank you for your letter Acad III/AC/144/2017 forwarding the minutes of the 144<sup>th</sup> Academic Council Meeting and asking for comments regarding the same. Kindly record my comments and dissent on the decisions taken on the following items, as recorded in the minutes of the 144<sup>th</sup> AC meeting. This letter may be read in conjunction with the letters already sent immediately after the meeting by e-office to the Vice Chancellor.

Before detailing my dissent with individual paragraphs of the minutes, I would like to record my extreme dissatisfaction with the manner in which the meeting was conducted. As you are aware, not all members of this august body are permitted to speak and the democratic character of the meetings that I recall in the past has been entirely voided. I was concerned to hear the Chair of the Meeting repeatedly respond to challenges and arguments by saying "Your opinion has been noted, a decision has been taken, we will move on to the next item." I tried to raise my hand several times to express my concern but was not afforded the opportunity to speak. Firstly, the utterances of the members were not mere "opinions" but could be arguments that needed to be taken up or objections that needed to be addressed, but the dismissal of these as "opinions" which did not need to be addressed made the meeting itself an exercise in futility. Secondly, I wished very strongly to object to the opaque method of proceeding in which the house was told "a decision has been taken" but where there was no attempt to spell out the decision. It is incumbent on the chair to voice the decision that has been taken, or the proposal that is being made, and the house ideally should vote on the proposal or decision. This was not done, but even the nature of the "decision taken" was not articulated. As a result, a member such as I who attended the meeting would not be able to even reconcile the meeting they attended, with what purports to be the minutes of the same. I wish to record my deep discomfort and dissent with this opaque and undemocratic manner of conducting the meeting.

Regarding specific items represented in the minutes, please record my objections as under:

**Part A Meeting, Items No. 1 and 2:** The minutes of the 143<sup>rd</sup> Part A Meeting does not record the fact that the former Dean, SAA had orally and in written, sought to record her objections/dissents with regards to the decisions taken therein. While she had received a reply

  
26/12

from you on some of the points, she had written back stating that the replies did not address the points she had raised. Her objections still stand. As a consequence, I am unable to confirm the minutes as prepared. Please therefore record my dissent on approval of the minutes of the 143<sup>rd</sup> AC Meeting.

**Part A Meeting, Item No. 3(i):** I would like to record our dissent at the approval of Agenda Item No 3(i) of the 144 Academic Council Meeting as the admissions for 2017-18 have been in violation of the *Central Educational Institutions (Reservations in Admission) Act, 2006*. On behalf of my colleagues and myself I would like to record my anguish that less than 50 per cent of the intake has been filled, with only 13 students admitted under OBC, 1 under ST, 2 under SC, quotas. This shortfall has been caused by arbitrary decisions taken by the Vice-Chancellor and various university officials, particularly for the suspension of the established practice of awarding deprivation points, and the 100% weightage for the viva voce. Kindly record my dissent with item no 3(i).

**Part A Meeting, Item No. 3(vi):** Regarding the item relating to the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Admissions, as a member of the committee I would like to state that at no meeting was the matter of delinking the M Phil and the PhD programmes approved. The matter was discussed at one meeting but it was agreed that there was no need for a "one-size-fits-all" approach in the University regarding the programme. The Standing Committee Meeting Minutes attached at Annexure III do not accurately record the discussion but they do not pretend that a decision regarding delinking was taken. Nor was the delinking of the M Phil and PhD discussed or approved at the 144<sup>th</sup> AC. I am surprised that subsequent statements and notices issued by the administration misrepresented this issue and claimed that delinking had been approved. Kindly record my dissent about this matter.

**Part A Meeting, Item No. 3(vi):** Kindly record my dissent with the Schedule pertaining to the 2018-19 admissions. In particular, we find 20 days for the evaluation of answer scripts too short and we also do not think it is feasible to hold JNUEE viva voce examinations in March. This date should be held in the first week of May 2018.

**Part A Meeting, Item No. 4:** I would like to record my dissent with the manner in which the approval was taken for the creation of School of Engineering in the University. I have already recorded my dissent regarding the misrepresentation of my position in the Agenda papers circulated for the 144<sup>th</sup> AC, when I was led to believe I was being asked for my response to a specific course outline rather than the principle of the establishment of the School of Engineering. I would like to reiterate that as Dean I am bound to represent the views of my faculty which is not in favour of the establishment of the SoE. The SAA is in favour of retaining the research character of this university and on using resources to strengthen the existing programmes rather than starting an undergraduate programme in Engineering.

**Part A Meeting, Item No. 05:** Please also note my extreme discomfort at the summary way in which the School of Management was pushed through the meeting. I am surprised that those proposing the School had no papers to place before the AC and had not taken the view of the university community. There is no material by which we may assess the merits of the proposal. Kindly record my dissent and great discomfort regarding this item.

**Part A Meeting, Item No. 07:** I am equally discomfited by the manner in which the upgradation of the Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies to a full-fledged School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies

was handled. Although I have no objection to the growth of the Centre, I found it telling that those associated with this upgradation found no need to present any papers detailing any academic plan. Please note my dissent for this procedure which robs the AC of any meaning or value.

**Part A Meeting, Item No. 08:** I am surprised to find that the minutes represent that the AC decided to make attendance compulsory for all students. This was not decided at the meeting; the matter was raised in relation to the BA students of the SL, but no decision was taken in their regard and certainly not with regard to the University as a whole. Kindly record my dissent.

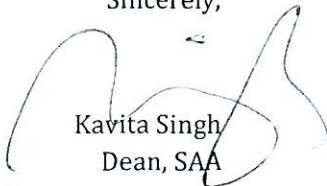
**Part A Meeting, Any Other Matter, Point (2):** Please record my strongest objection to the treatment of the M.Sc. Mathematics proposal from SPS for discussion in the agenda of the 144<sup>th</sup> AC. The minutes are also completely fabricated under this point - there was no assertion made that comments had not been received in time. Rather, the statement by the Dean SPS that about 30 comments had been received was not disputed; instead, what was on display was a transparent desire on the part of Rector II and the VC not to let the matter be discussed in this AC, despite the request by many members, that the matter should be taken up. The overwhelming sense of the house was that the course should be approved has not been recorded. Please record our dissent on this decision against my name.

**Part B Meeting, Items No. 1 and 2:** The minutes of the 143<sup>rd</sup> Part B Meeting do not record the fact that the former Dean, SAA has sought to record objections/dissents with regards to the decisions taken therein. As a consequence, I am unable to confirm the minutes as prepared. We therefore also do not approve Agenda Item no.2, which is the Action Taken Report based on Item 1. Please therefore record our dissent on this decision against our individual names.

**Part B Meeting, Item No. 7:** I wish to record our dissent with the draft M.Phil./PhD Ordinances which have many changes to the current procedure. To the best of my knowledge these ordinances have not been circulated prior to the meeting and do not comply with the practices and course structure of our School, rather they might be in accordance with the practice in Science schools. The adoption of these ordinances will cause major disruptions to our programme and I cannot condone the formulation of these ordinances and their adoption without any involvement of the Schools and Centres of the University. Further, this decision creates confusion as to which Ordinances are currently in operation in the university -- the Ordinances of April 2017 (approved by the JNU Court on 8 December 2017) or these Draft Ordinances? Or neither - since the date of the applicability of the April Ordinances are equally *sub judice*. Please record my dissent with the decision and with the Ordinances as well.

Please also record my dissent with the representation of discussion of delinking of M Phil and PhD as it was not approved by the meeting, as is represented in the minutes. Even the Standing Committee on Admission Meeting held on 5.09.17, whose minutes are approved of by the AC under Part A 3(vi) say that the issue needs wider discussion with all stake holders before such a decision could be taken.

Sincerely,



Kavita Singh  
Dean, SAA

P121915  
468  
26/12/2017  
3