



To,
Professor M. Jagadesh Kumar
Vice-Chancellor
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi- 110067

July 13, 2017

Subject: Minutes of 143rd AC meeting

Dear Professor Kumar,

Please find my individual response to the minutes of the 143 (A) of the Academic Council.

I could not attend the part B of the meeting as I was away on an academic assignment during that period of the vacation. I chose this period for my travel relying on the long-held convention of the university which allowed us certain flexibilities during vacations by not organising important meetings during such semester breaks. Kindly note my reservations against this new practice of organising Academic Council meetings during vacation.

In the meeting (Part A), I believe the majority of the members present, including me, wanted a discussion on the proceedings of the 142nd meeting, and a relook at the minutes given the feeling expressed by the majority that the minutes of the 142nd meeting did not reflect the spirit of the discussion. This, however, was not allowed, and no comprehensive reason was put forward. I express my dismay and dissent on the mode of conducting the above-said meeting, and the decision to not allow a thorough discussion even though the majority was in favour of it.

May I note that as members of the Academic Council we have in the past sat through long meetings, and repetitive discussions, and this has never been a cause of discontent among the members.

Please record my objection and dissent to the fact that none of the objections/dissents submitted by members of the 142nd (A) meeting of the Academic Council, including those given by JNUTA, given both on the floor of the house in the 142 AC and in writing subsequently, have been brought on record in the framing of the minutes.

Going by the majority view, the House also cannot be assumed to have accepted that the UGC Regulations were mandatory in light of the order of the High Court of Delhi in LPA 274/2017.

- In the light of the disagreement over the minutes of the 142nd meeting, I cannot agree to the minutes that the house had agreed to the cut in intake without any deliberation.
- I found that many Centres had objections to the figures of intake mentioned by the Director of Admissions, who, however, could not provide any convincing rationale/formulae for the intake figures (or lack thereof) for those Centres.

Item No. 7 (Creation of a Special Centre for Disaster Research)


Please note my dissent on this item. I do not endorse this model of growth of the university through Special Centres. My Centre, in a faculty meeting called for a discussion on this proposal, had shared a very similar view of linking each Centre to a School. I also stress that should this proposal be approved, after due deliberations, there should be no concurrent appointments between the proposed Centre and any of the existing Centres/Schools/Special Centres of the University.

Please note my objection w.r.t. unilaterally approaching the UGC for sanction of programmes in Engineering and Management without any proper discussion at the Academic Council. In cases of new disciplines, a detailed proposal needs to be presented to the Academic Council and opinions of Schools and Centres sought before approaching external bodies. No proposal has been presented before the AC or Schools/Centres to date. No meeting of the Chairpersons and Deans were even called to discuss such an important issue.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,


(Saradindu Bhaduri)

 **Saradindu Bhaduri, Ph.D**
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