

The Chairperson

20.09.2017

Executive Council, JNU

(Through the Secretary of the EC)

Dear Professor Jagadesh Kumar,

As I had mentioned in the meeting, I am putting on the record my note of dissent on the decision on item 5.3 of the 269th meeting of the Executive Council which took place on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017.

In the UGC gazette notification May 2, 2016, item 3(h) on page 13 states that

“Any existing body already functioning with the same objective (like the Gender Sensitization Committee Against Sexual Harassment (GSCASH)) should be **reconstituted** as ICC”.

As mentioned by an EC member, GSCASH rules were legally compliant with the law of the land as checked in 2015 as well as in 2016. So my opinion is that it should have been synchronized with ICC as allowed by the UGC notification mentioned above. GSCASH had elections for teachers' representatives who were then nominated by the Vice Chancellor; this is an important feature for any such body to be autonomous. JNU's GSCASH was appreciated by many in the Indian legal system. Many other educational institutions in India as well as in the neighbouring countries have followed the model of JNU's GSCASH.

I had also observed that the committee constituted to work out modalities of ICC had only one member who was a former chair of GSCASH, whose views were ignored. In fact, they were not brought to the notice of the EC. None of the others seemed to have any experience in this matter. GSCASH has been working in JNU for more than 20 years and the opinion of its members should have been taken into account before forming such an important committee.

I have worked in a women cell in my previous institution and as a women faculty of JNU, it pains me to see the dismantling of GSCASH in one go and forming a completely new committee with all new members. I have failed to understand the reason for dismantling of GSCASH, especially since the members proposed for ICC do not seem to have any experience in dealing with the cases of sexual harassment or to work for gender sensitivity.

Regards,



Riddhi Shah