

# **WEST BENGAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

(REGISTERED UNDER ACT XXI 1960)

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**To  
The Vice – Chancellor,  
West Bengal State University  
Barasat.**

Respected Sir,

At the outset we convey our greetings for your earnest endeavour for initiating an all round reform in the functioning of West Bengal State University which has been languishing for a proper growth and development ever since its inception.

With these words of appreciation we would like to draw your attention to some important aspects of university governance which are extremely important for sustainable growth of the university both at academic as well as administrative level:

1. In our previous representations we had expressed our concern over the undemocratic governance of the university in which no election of university court or council has been conducted in last several years. Other than the Principals of the undergraduate affiliate colleges no representations of democratically elected PG and UG level teachers or non teaching employees have been ensured which is a threat to the basic transparency in university governance. Without this basic commitment to democratic governance no reform is going to yield a sustainable development.

2. However, we would draw your attention to the recent reforms you have initiated in the undergraduate examination and evaluation system which had lost its credibility due to rampant malpractices in the above mentioned sections of the university. We for

last several years have been requesting for ensuring workshop involving the teachers, non-teaching employees and the Principals of the affiliate colleges before implementing any reform in examination and evaluation system. Unfortunately major decisions were taken of late in this regard without giving the teachers of the undergraduate colleges any opportunity to express their views.

3. The reforms in evaluation system recently implemented by the university is definitely very modern in outlook apparently and likely to be effective also, provided the infrastructure is favourable uniformly in the affiliate colleges. The proposed system presupposes an extremely technology savvy infrastructure in the affiliate colleges throughout the district. Hi profile net connectivity in all the colleges is yet another pre requisite for this system. Incidentally State University is proud to have affiliate colleges ranging from extremely equipped colleges in urban locations down to colleges with challenging geographical locations and limited resources.

4. We have noticed that the Head Examiners and Examiners are facing difficulty in operating the newly introduced system. The new system does not allow the Head Examiners to act as examiners in case of emergency. Many examiners may find it difficult to update the progress of evaluation through online network. Moreover, the incentive of earning one day Duty Leave in case the examiners could upload report of 20 checked papers in one single day not only sounds ludicrous, it is definitely going to affect the standard of evaluation particularly in case of honours papers.

5. In this connection we would also like to mention that many examiners are facing difficulty in getting duty leave for receiving and submission of answer scripts. WBCUTA is worried about the selection and functioning of some of the Board of Studies at undergraduate level. We have noticed lack of transparency at various levels in the functioning of the Board of Studies.

6. WBCUTA strongly feels that the manner in which the affiliate colleges under West Bengal State University of Barasat are introducing Post Graduate courses in various subjects will further deteriorate the standard of PG and UG level teaching. Dearth of adequate number of teachers, limitless increase in the intake capacity in UG departments every year, too much pressure on the teachers in the non-academic day-

to-day works in the colleges, and many other factors have already affected the teaching learning process in the colleges. In most of the cases P.G. courses are being introduced by the colleges due to many vested interests within and outside the college. Such proliferation of P.G. courses in affiliate colleges may in future again breed corruption in examination and evaluation sections and further tarnish the integrity of this University.

7. WBCUTA also draws your kind attention to the fact that in many colleges under West Bengal State University a large number of teachers are being humiliated and insulted by the college authorities. As regards the code of conduct of the teachers, college authorities are making discrepancies. In some colleges a reign of terror has been unleashed by the college administration and teachers are the major victim of this terror. The attitude towards the teachers in the name of code of conduct has already affected the teaching-learning environment in many colleges. It is a matter of grave concern that the functioning of Teachers' Council in many colleges has been affected and democratic right of the teachers to express their opinion in various matters pertaining to the college administration have been curtailed. WBCUTA is really surprised to see that there is no mention regarding the structure or function of the Teachers Council in the First Statute of the West Bengal State University. Two committees was formed to amend the First Statute of the University and WBCUTA submitted several submissions urging for necessary changes in the Statute. So far, no report of the committee has been published and the amended statute is still not published.

8. Many Principals of the affiliate Colleges are of the opinion that the teachers will have to sign the attendance register on every weekday during the 'Summer Recess'. WBCUTA strongly opposes such policy in case it is implemented. During summer recess the teachers perform their exam duties (invigilation, evaluation) and admission related duties (Admission to new 1<sup>st</sup> Year Classes). Barring these working days for which service is requisitioned by the college, the teachers are left with very few summer holidays to enjoy. Moreover this limited number of days is important for their research work also. WBCUTA is of the opinion that teachers should not be dragged to the college unnecessarily for attendance and spoil those days idly. This does not suit the dignity of teaching profession either. The nature of Leave for absence on these days is also not defined in the statute.

9. We have noticed that in formulating such hostile rules towards the college teachers: be it biometric attendance or compulsory attendance during summer recess West Bengal State University is taking amazingly proactive role compared to colleges under other universities. We have a reasonably exhaustive comparative database to substantiate this point.

We sincerely feel that the issues mentioned above are extremely important and sensitive. We, on behalf of our age old association request you to consider the views of the teachers serving in different colleges in a democratic manner before taking any policy decision on such crucial issues.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely



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