

Minutes of the meeting of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee (SGRC) held on 13-03-2015 at 11:00 AM in the Office Chamber of the Adhyaksha, Bhasha-Bhavana at the new Bhasha Bhavana Vidya-Bhavana Building.

Members present:

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| 1. Prof. Rameswar Prasad Mishra, Adhyaksha, Bhasha-Bhavana: | Chairman |
| 2. Prof. Swastika Mukhopadhyay, Sangit-Bhavana: | Member |
| 3. Prof Narayan Chandra Mondal, Department of Botany: | Member |
| 4. Smt. Rita Halder, Student representing the Dept. of Anthropology: | Special Invitee |

Apart from the above persons, the following persons also met the members:

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| 1. Prof. Madhusudan Ghosh, Adhyaksha, Vidya-Bhavana & HOD (Offg.), Anthropology: | |
| 2. Prof. Manas Ray, Department of Anthropology: | |
| 3. Shri Milon Das, student of Anthropology, Vidya-Bhavana: | Complainant |

Agenda:

- (1) Consideration of the prayer of Shri Milon Das, student of Department of Anthropology, Vidya-Bhavana.
- (2) Miscellaneous, if any.

Discussion: on Agenda 1:

At the outset, Sri Milon Das (complainant), a student of the Department of Anthropology, was requested to state his grievances in detail and to submit any document (if available) to substantiate his grievances. From the discussion it appears that his grievances mainly include inadequate student-amenities: namely,

- (A) (i) inadequate classroom and laboratory space;
- (ii) inadequate number of books and difficulties in having access to the books;
- (ii) inadequacy or lack of laboratory-instruments.

(B) Apart from these, he also apprehended that he would be victimised for airing his grievances to the University Authority by way of damage of career prospects (i.e., biased evaluation of his answer scripts). He mainly pointed his fingers at Prof. Manas Ray, a Professor of the department of Anthropology.

Subsequently, Prof. Madhusudan Ghosh, Adhyaksha (Vidya-Bhavana) and Head (Officiating) of the department of Anthropology as well as Prof. Manas Ray also met the Committee and gave reactions on the grievances. Both of them brushed aside all the allegations levelled against them. Prof. Manas Roy stated that the allegations were fabricated and might be the purposeful handiwork of some persons(s). Smt. Rita Halder, the student representative of this committee, also brushed aside these allegations against Prof. M. Ray. It is also learnt that at present there are altogether 16 students in the

complainant
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Swastika Mukhopadhyay
17.3.15

Rita Halder
17.3.15

M.A./M.Sc. (1st Year and 2nd Year taken together) and only 8 students in the Ph.D. Course-Work. From the discussion it was learnt that the grievances owing to inadequate basic students' amenities have been redressed partly on the following points:

- i. Classroom Space: Two more classrooms have been allotted (erstwhile Vidya-Bhavana office) in favour of the Department of Anthropology which may judiciously use the classrooms as Lecture-rooms or laboratory to the extent possible.
- ii. Books: Despite books are available for the 24 students of the department, need of more books cannot be disregarded. Due to dearth of space, some books have been kept in the Central Library. Interested students may make use of them by visiting the Central Library. The Central Library officials may take pro-active measures to make these books available to the students.

It was also recommended that the Head of the Department (Offg.) in consultation with the departmental teachers would arrange to prepare a list of books to be purchased and forward a copy of the list to the Librarian, Central Library, V.B. The Librarian, V.B. may purchase the books at the earliest (whenever fund is available) in the interest of the students.

- iii. Laboratory Instruments: Although some instruments are available with the department, the instruments could not be set in a specialised laboratory due to paucity of adequate space. Some instruments are old and might be unusable. However, it was recommended that the instruments which are in good working condition, should be made accessible to the students for their practical studies. First of all, one teacher or a group of teachers be given the responsibility of physical stock-taking of the instruments, reconcile this with the stock-register, enlist the useable and non-useable instruments available to the students as well as prepare a list of instruments (alongwith appropriate price) which may be purchased, whenever fund is available. The Department may also send a proposal to the appropriate section of the university in this regard for fund.

Rishra

17.3.15
N. C. Mandal
17.3.15

Swastika Mahapatray
17.3.15

Page 2 of 3
Rita Halder
17.3.15

Apprehension of victimisation:

The student apprehended that he might be victimised, for communicating his grievances to the University Authority, by way of damage of his career-prospect. He specified that his answer-scripts in the semester examination might be wrongly evaluated with a bias against him. He pointed out fingers mainly at Prof. Manas Ray. During discussion, it was learnt that Shri Milon Das is now in Semester-IV (i.e. the last semester) of Master Degree Programme. Shri Das has stated that he had cleared the Semester-I and Semester-III. He also stated that he did not appear in the Semester-II examination. While asked the reason, he said that he was thinking about discontinuing his studies at Visva-Bhrati. He is also supposed to appear in the ensuing Semester-IV examinations. Therefore, for completing his Master Degree Programme, Shri Das has to clear all the papers of Semester-II & IV. During the course of interview, it was learnt that there is no class-allotment for Prof. Manas Ray in Semester-II or Semester-IV. Smt. Rita Haldar, the student representative of this committee, has also corroborated this statement. Prof. Manas Ray while brushing aside this allegation said that never in his long academic career, no student had ever made such allegation against him. And since there is already a mechanism of review of answer-scripts in the University, the student may apply for review. Therefore, if Shri Milon Das, is of the opinion that he had been wrongly evaluated in the Semester-III papers, he may apply for review as per norm and he had been advised by the Committee accordingly. The Committee observed that there might be a psychological barrier or distance between this particular student and some of the teachers. The committee therefore urges that the Adhyaksha, Vidya-Bhavana as well as Officiating Head of the Department of Anthropology sits together with all the departmental teachers as well as with Shri Milon Das, for redressal of this student's grievances with the available resources and to come out with suitable proposals coupled with active steps to improve upon. It was also recommended that this student may be helped as much as possible with softness and care as well by making continuous dialogue and counselling in order to dispel his apprehension about damage of his carrier:

The Principal, Vidya-Bhavana and the HOD (Offg.), Anthropology; the Librarian, Visva-Bharati and other teachers of the department may be requested to adhere to the recommendations of this committee. Having no other point to discuss the meeting concluded with thanks and regard to everyone present.

N. Chandra
17.3.15

Smastika Mukherjee
17.3.15

Rita Halder