

The Registrar,
University of Jammu,
Jammu.

Subject: Notification of *Retrospective Summer Break* during lockdown period.

Madam,

This is to bring to your notice that Dean Academic Affairs, University of Jammu, vide Notification No. DAA/20/6012-71, Dated:21-05-2020, issued a Revised Academic Calendar, which at Point No 6 has mentioned to consider lockdown period as summer vacations, retrospectively. As per the directions issued by the University authorities from time to time, the Faculty members of the University of Jammu have been actively engaged in online teaching of students and supervision of research scholars, besides other duties assigned by the University since the lockdown came into force in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, under the directives of Govt. of India. Efforts put in by the faculty members in syllabus completion of theory part especially, in view of lockdown restrictions, are praiseworthy specifically in delivering online mode of teaching and supervision to the University students. Faculty members have been actively engaged in imparting online teaching modules as desired by the University, inspite of all difficulties faced by them (Internet issues, lack of support staff in the households, lack of reference material etc), they have tried to acquire new skill sets to adapt to this new situation, hence this period should not be considered as a summer break. They have been following the academic calendar notified earlier by the University and if any revision in Academic Calendar was required it should have been in consultation with the stake holders, as is done normally. The official platforms could have been used for this purpose. Other Universities in India, have declared the summer break prospectively, then why did our University feel the necessity to do so retrospectively.

It is desired by the teaching fraternity to consider lockdown period as *on duty* and not as a summer break, moreover transport allowance for the month of April and May should not be deducted as the teachers were performing their assigned duties at *extended workplace* (as pointed out by Prof. Arvind Kotwal during a online meeting with the worthy Vice Chancellor). JUTA understands that TA is deducted if the office has not been attended physically, but given the peculiar circumstances of emergency nature, the faculty members were restricted to their homes on the directives of the Govt of India and not of their personal will. A letter, regarding the issue of TA, written by the Secretary, National Council (Staff Side, Joint Consultative Machinery for Central Govt Employees) to Secretary (DoP&T), Govt of India, on matter of TA is being appended for your perusal.

It is also important to mention here, University must take JUTA into confidence for all the matters related to teacher's welfare. During the lockdown a large number of task forces were made to combat the crises arising out of the COVID-19 Pandemic but to utmost surprise JUTA

has never been asked to be part of any task force, though President JUTA has been there in capacity of her NSS Duty. The undersigned was not informed about the meeting where the decision was taken regarding retrospective summer break, though.

Therefore, JUTAs urges the University authorities to immediately revise of the notification regarding summer break and release the transport allowance of the employees.

With best wishes,

Prof. Neeru Sharma
President JUTA
26.5.2020