

The Hindustan Times

Walk-out in Academic Council over strike

By A Staff Reporter

The continuing strike at the Delhi College of Engineering occasioned a long debate at the Academic Council meeting of Delhi University on Wednesday. At the end of it, 16 members of the Council walked out following differences with the Vice-Chancellor over the discussion regarding the minutes of the last Council meeting and the non-adoption of a resolution regarding Delhi college of Engineering.

A spokesman of the University said that the Academic Council expressed its "deep concern" over the state of affairs at the Delhi College of Engineering to the Delhi Administration, and requested the Vice-Chancellor to make all possible efforts towards speedy implementation of the existing agreement between students and teachers in the college, which has been on strike since April 23.

Mr Sydney Rebeiro, who initiated the discussion on Delhi College of Engineering, alleged that the entire agreement was held up in the Union Finance Ministry due to red tape. He added that in the process a large number of students, especially those getting their degrees at the end of this academic year had already suffered considerably with regard to jobs.

The walk-out was reportedly due to the objections from some members to certain parts of the minutes of the last Academic Council meeting. The Vice-Chancellor adjourned the meeting for 10 minutes in the hope that the matter would be sorted out, but to no avail.

The members had been protesting about the subject of uniformity of eligibility conditions for recruitment of lecturers in the University and colleges. They alleged that what had been sent to the Executive Council of the University after the last meeting, purporting to be the decision of the Academic Council in this matter, was not correct, and wanted to know why the decision had been sent without getting

the minutes passed at the next meeting.

The University spokesman denied that the information given to the Executive Council had not reflected the decision of the Academic Council. He said that the Executive Council had been informed quickly "in the interest of early advertisements for vacant positions which have been held up for the last 15 months". He claimed that the convention in the past had been to convey the decisions to the Executive Council after they had been read out at the same meeting of the Academic Council where they had been taken.

The Academic Council authorized the Vice-Chancellor to fix the last dates for admissions to various undergraduate and post-graduate courses in the coming academic year.

The Academic Council also reiterated its earlier decision on the applicability of Ordinance 12 of the University rules to all professional colleges, the spokesman said.

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SR INITIATES Debate

The Times Of India

Rally by varsity teachers

By A Staff Reporter

About 1,000 university teachers, on Thursday held a rally outside the office of the University Grants Commission.

Shouting slogans, the DUT members demanded a written assurance on their demands from the UGC. A number of speakers including Mr S. K. Batra, acting president of the DUTA addressed the rally.

Students belonging to the Committee Against Goondaism showed support for the teachers' strike by turning up at the UGC lawns. These students felt that the teachers could not be expected to work efficiently when they were worried about promotion and housing avenues and said that the UGC should concede the demands.

Meanwhile, the University Social Brigade said in a Press release that the strike had resulted in a loss of 41 working days that amounted to 24% of the total academic year; about 40,000 students would not be able to appear for the UPSC and the bank service examinations. Mr Sydney Rebeiro, convener of the Brigade, asked the Minister of State for Education, Mrs Sheila Kaul, and the UGC Chairman, Mrs Madhuri Shah to restore normalcy on the campus.

After the demonstration outside the UGC office, a DUTA deputation met the UGC's Vice-Chairman, Mr Rais Ahmed, who told them that he would convey their demands in the next UGC meeting.

Regarding DUTA's main demand about promotional avenues, he said: "Let the Education Ministry take a decision" as talks were already going on between the Ministry and DUTA. Whatever the Ministry decides, the UGC would accept that, he told the teachers.

Later in the evening, DUTA executive in a meeting decided to recommend to the general body meeting on Friday (today) that the teachers' strike should continue.

The executive also decided to seek an authority from the general body to give it permission to call a general body meeting at a 24-hour notice whenever any concrete offers were being made by the Ministry about their demands.

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