

**PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY
PUDUCHERRY**

No.PU/REGR/Academic/2020/ **216**

Date: 03.03.2020

NOTICE

An appeal to the students. The University has always been compassionate towards the students and issues raised by them. But, contrary to facts, there is a lot of misinformation that is being spread by some people with ulterior motives. The administration empathizes with the need for access to education for all especially to marginalized sections of society. Hence when our students represented for the reduction in the fee, we immediately worked to decrease a portion of the fee wherever possible. **Moreover, a 20% fee concession is offered by the University across the board to the underprivileged / marginalized and below poverty line students who are not covered under any scholarship.** There are several scholarship opportunities that are being provided by our University to meritorious students as well and a plethora of other financial aid and scholarship available to marginalized students. While we have offered a considerable amount of discount to people who are in need, the core cause of the protest is already addressed by our University.

While our students sit in solidarity demanding education access to all, the emphasis on **quality education is being over looked**, with higher costs associated with providing quality education and the need to invest in better infrastructure along with dwindling resources and financial crunch. The University has taken sincere efforts to address this issue to its best.

It should be noted that the fee hike, was decided by the academic council after several considerations. For several years the fees of the University remained the same and for some courses, the fees has been the same since the inception of our University. Any amendments to a fee structure after nearly a decade or for some over 3 decades would naturally show an exponential increase and not linear increase patterns as they haven't been increasing every year. Hence if it had been a yearly increase in fee, this might not show figures of 200% or 300% increase as some students interpret it, so interpreting them as percentages rather total sum over several years is seriously misleading. While even in that case except for some professional courses like the MBA and computer sciences course, the rest of the course fee has been increased by around 39% or less.

The University on its part has been trying its best to provide affordable education to all since its inception. That is why even today, Pondicherry University is probably the only Central University that provides free hostel accommodation to female students and PH students. It is also the only University which has provided free bus service to all the students since its inception until now. We also provide merit scholarship to deserving students. While we wish to continue to give several services free and to keep the fees as low as possible, the wish has become unrealistic in the current financial scenario. Hence, it is not in our hands, we can only do the best with the funds allocated to us while the fees have been constant for decades, at the same time the cost of running the university has increased over 1000% in the past few decades. In the current financial scenario, the fall of the fee to original amount would just mean fall of several other infrastructures and facilities & amenities that are made available to the students. And we don't want that to happen.

The University has always been proactive on issues concerning students welfare. The issue of revision of fee structure was already discussed at length by the previous students council and their representations were considered by the fee committee. The revised fee structure was implemented only for the students admitted from the academic year 2019-20 and not for the previous batches. When the present student council started its protest from 06.02.2020 without any prior notice, several months have rolled out after implementation of the revised fee structure. The University has made its best efforts for dialogue and negotiations. In the meetings the students initially demanded 50% fee hike in MBA and all computer science courses and roll back of fee for all other courses on the grounds that the poor students are not able to join the courses due to higher fee structure. Considering their demand, the University offered 20% fee concession to the underprivileged / marginalized and below poverty line students across the board. Immediately the protesting students changed their stand and demanded 50% fee reduction in all courses which they subsequently changed as roll back of fee hike to the previous level that existed during 2012 which is unrealistic in these days of dwindling resources and financial crunch. All the students who were part of the dialogues know that what is mentioned here are simple facts although some may defer from it at this point of time for their convenience.

The change in the stand of the protesting students over the months clearly displays an unknown agenda other than the roll back of fee hike. Though the University has taken sincere efforts to resolve the issue and had four rounds of talks with the protesting

students, the students are adamant in continuing their protests thereby disturbing the peaceful atmosphere in the University and hampering the conducive environment for carrying out academic learning and research.

Dissent and oppositions to a policy of the University can be there as it will encourage to better the policy. But these must be done in a peaceful manner without causing hindrance to routine academic activities and discharge of duties by teaching and non-teaching staff. **Most importantly while the fight for the cause is important, the health of the students protesting for the cause is even more important to us and to your parents. If one completely understands the situation of the University with an open mind and if one is not influenced or misinformed by percentage numbers and if one understands that underprivileged and marginalized students will still have access to quality education at our University with several existing financial aid and the 20% additional offer on the tuition fee. This protest shall be put to rest.**

Therefore, it is notified to the protesting students that the issue raised by them may be approached in a more meaningful and positive manner and the ongoing protest shall be brought to an end at the earliest. If the students persist on continuing the protest, the University would be constrained not to permit such protests and agitation within the precincts of the administrative building and to earmark a restricted area for such activities as followed in other central Universities and as such the area beyond 500 meters shall be henceforth earmarked for such activities. Accordingly, the students are hereby instructed to vacate the administrative building immediately. Any such activity or protest shall be held in a peaceful manner **at the Ponlait Students Corner**, without causing disturbance to any of the stakeholders of the University. We are constrained to inform that any violation shall be liable for action as per the code of conduct and discipline as mentioned in the prospectus. Please render your cooperation, in the best interest of student community and for undertaking peaceful academic and research activities in the University.

// BY ORDER //



REGISTRAR (i/c)

To

**All the Deans/HODs/Centre Heads,
Pondicherry University**

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***With a request to circulate among all
students and research scholars***

Copy to :

1. The Assistant Registrar, VC's Secretariat ... for kind information of VC.
2. The Assistant Registrar, Registrar's Secretariat.
3. The P.S to Director (SEI&RR)
4. The PA to Director (Cultural & Cultural Relations)
5. The PS to the Finance Officer, Pondicherry University
6. The PS to the Controller of Examinations, Pondicherry University.
7. The Librarian, Pondicherry University
8. The Chief Wardens, Pondicherry University
9. The Dean, Students Welfare, Pondicherry University.
10. The Deputy Dean, Students Welfare, Pondicherry University.
11. The Officer on Special Duty (V&S), Pondicherry University.
- ✓12. The Systems Manager & Head ... *with a request to host in the University website.*