

To
Dr. Partha Chattopadhyay
The Minister In-Charge
Department of Higher Education, School Education,
Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Parliamentary Affairs
Government of West Bengal
Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata 7000 92

Date : 12/04/2017

Sub: Appeal: West Bengal College and University Professors Association (WBCUPA) would like to draw your kind attention to the recently issued Memo by Department of Higher Education (Memorandum No. 361-Edn. (CS)/5P-56/2017 Date of Issue 10.04.2017 Signed by Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal) apparently affecting CAS (Career Advancement Scheme) of all teachers in Substantive post of state-aided Colleges and Universities of West Bengal

Dear Sir,

This is with reference to the above subject, the following points of which may kindly be considered prior to considering favourably the appeal that we shall make:

1. The above mentioned Memo is based on the:

a. UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) (4th Amendment), Regulations, 2016 - No.F.1-2/2016 (PS/Amendment)- published on MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016 in THE GAZETTE OF INDIA: EXTRAORDINARY

b. Notice No.F.1-2/2016 (PS) Amendments, published on Date; 10.01.2017, University Grants Commission issued a list for identifying journals in different domains of knowledge has approved the List of Journals attached along with for the purpose of Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) and Direct Recruitment of teachers and other academic staff as required under the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) (4th Amendment) Regulations, 2016 consisting of 38653 names of journals from all subjects

2. The problem arising out of the Memo are the following:

a. Department of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal has issued the Memo that states that all CAS matter of College and University teachers (state-aided) due on/from/after 10.01.2017 will be guided by UGC Regulation Amendment 2016 and UGC List of Journals issued on 10.01.2017

b. Teachers' CAS will now effectively get stalled, due on/from/after 10.01.2017, as most of them had been preparing as per earlier Guidelines during the assessment period of Promotion.

c. Publications of teachers were made as per availability of Journals, as per earlier guidelines. A teacher may not have publication as per list of Journals approved by UGC though these publications are found to be perfectly okay as per earlier guidelines. The list of Journals approved by UGC was not available before 10.01.2017, thus compliance of the same is possible only if the substantial time of assessment period is available to the teachers.

d. UGC itself knows the problem, thus have not given any date of effect in their Notice, as well as have stated that the list is dynamic (changeable) in nature.

e. For example, if a teacher's promotion is withheld owing to his/her inability to make publications in the present list of journals, and later UGC enhances the list, as it is learnt from many sources, by adding a few more or thousand journals in which his/her publications happen to be found therein, will that teacher get effect from the actual due date of CAS or will get effect from the date of publication of future augmented list of UGC?

f. There is a contradiction embedded in the issue. A teachers CAS, due now, can be processed through the amended calculation published in July 2016, but stipulation as per list of Journals as approved by UGC (published on 10.01.2017) will land most publications of most of teachers in Journals will become redundant. Further the UGC list has no Journals from West Bengal thus any reputed publication from Bengal will stand nullified.

g. The Teachers' grievance due to this Memo will turn from UGC to Govt. of West Bengal mostly under the instigation of rival teacher's organization. Most of the CAS processors will get stalled for at least next 2 years from now, if they have to comply with the Govt. Memo and UGC Regulation and have to publish afresh as per the stipulation given in list of Journals. CAS due date will get deferred till they comply with the stipulation and in the process there will be acute loss of service benefit.

3. Hardship caused to teachers due to the hasty step taken by UGC and MHRD in the form of Amended Regulation of 2016 and Approved List of Journals of 2017 can possibly be relieved if the date of issue of the said Memo is kept as the date of order.

4. It is appealed that all publications of teachers prior to the date of order i.e., 10/04/2017, done as per earlier regulations be accepted and granted weightage for calculation of API score. However, while evaluating the publications of Teachers on or after 10/04/2017, be considered only if they comply with the UGC approved journals. This will do justice to the Teachers as any publication effort is a time consuming process and the same was undertaken by a teacher without the knowledge of the list of journals notified by the UGC subsequently.

We earnestly hope that our appeal will be taken by your kind self favourably and direction for necessary action to that effect be issued.

With regards.

Your Sincerely,

Krishnakali Basu (Ghosh)
President, WBCUPA