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Dean resignation adds to campus discomfiture

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Kolkata: Jadavpur University's dean of science faculty and chairman of the internal committee, which is now probing the ragging case, resigned on Sunday citing "personal reasons".

The resignation has not been accepted yet but this has led to an uncertainty over the future of the panel, which is chaired by the dean.

On Sunday afternoon, JU dean of science Subenoy Chakraborty e-mailed his resignation to pro-VC Amitava Datta. He had joined as a permanent dean for a four-year term in December 2020. The e-mail sent to Datta read, "I am resigning from the post of dean, faculty of science, Jadavpur University due to some personal reasons."

Datta said: "I will speak to him (Chakraborty)." When TOI contacted professor Chakraborty, he said that didn't want to discuss 'internal matter' in public.

The university's rule says, if a permanent dean wants to resign then the vice-chancellor is the only person who can accept it. However, he sent his resignation letter to pro-VC Datta on Sunday, just 12 hours after the circular of the appointment of new officiating vice-chancellor Buddhadeb Sau was issued by the Raj Bhavan on Saturday night.

Sau, the new officiating VC, said he can only comment on the matter after taking charge on Monday.

Professor Chakraborty was heading the probe committee for the internal investigation of the ragging issue and the committee has already covered a major part of its hearings.

A list of names related to this incident, their recorded statements are ready and it will shortly be submitted to the university.

Chakraborty, when asked specifically on his continuance as the probe panel head, said, "I have resigned from the post of dean of science but didn't say anything in the letter about the committee. So, let us see what happens and what decision the university takes."

The probe committee has a meeting on Monday, too, and they have some more depositions to record.

An official said, "He has resigned from the post of dean of science faculty but the committee has a separate entity and is playing a vital role in the present scenario and the major part of the work has been conducted under his supervision. Very shortly, the report will be submitted."

Some on the campus, who are close to the dean of science, said that he was not happy with the appointment of the new officiating VC and both have some internal trouble. Moreover, the new officiating VC is also reportedly the dean's former student.

However, both didn't want to admit this thing and the new VC said, "I was the student of his department and not his direct student."