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Profs will talk to students' families to bring them back to JU campus

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KOLKATA: The Jadavpur University anti-ragging committee has proposed several confidence-building measures to bring students, especially freshers, back to the hostels and the campus.

SENSITISATION PROGRAMMES ON CARDS



Security check at JU Gate 3 on Monday

Decisions | Profs to interact with parents to allay fears; mentor-mentee bond to be strengthened; counselling programmes to address trauma; Contact details of counselling cell, NGOs to be provided to students; sensitisation programmes to address ragging

Proposals | CCTV cameras at entry and exit points of campus and hostels; increase in number of anti-ragging squad members; security officer to keep watch on campus at night; NGOs, mental health experts, media person and gender activist added to anti-ragging panel

Chaired by officiating VC Buddhadeb Sau, the committee members and anti-ragging squad members, and all heads of departments decided that professors of each department would personally speak to parents of students, especially the freshers, to allay their fears about JU and assure them that they will have teachers by their side whenever the need arises.

The committee also decided that the mentor-mentee relationship in each department should be strengthened and there will be an orientation for both.

"The mentor-mentee system exists in many departments, but it has to be strengthened in light of such an incident. Each student is assigned a mentor and s/he can share their problems, be it personal or academic, with the mentor," said a committee member.

Recognising that the hostel death has adversely affected the mental health of students, the committee decided to arrange counselling and sensitisation programmes for all students.

"It has been decided that the counselling cell will be made more active and there will be group counselling of students. The departments have been given the autonomy to invite mental health experts and counsellors. Phone numbers of the counselling cell and NGOs dealing with mental health will be given out to students so that

they can seek help anytime," a member of the committee said.

The committee felt counselling was necessary to address the trauma after the incident and to change their mindset, so that the issue of ragging is holistically addressed.

Interim VC Sau said, "There has been discussion to install CCTV cameras at the campus gates and the hostel entrances."

Sau said the hostel security will be beefed up, there will be a log book at the gates and boarders will be issued ID cards. "Not everyone will be able to enter the hostel, even by signing the log book."

The committee also proposed to increase the members of the anti-ragging squad by including teachers who stay within 2km of the university. There were discussions on enhancing the anti-ragging committee with a mental health expert, NGOs, a gender activist and a media person. It was also proposed that a security officer or an officer of special duty be appointed to keep watch on the campus at night. Whether teachers will be given responsibility of warden was also brought up.

The proposals will be placed in the EC meeting.

(With inputs from Poulami Roy Banerjee)