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JU in admin limbo after governor-govt face-off

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Kolkata: Jadavpur University finds itself in a quandary following the governor's decision to terminate the officiating VC, Buddhadeb Sau, and state higher education department's letter asking Sau that he "may continue to exercise and perform the duties and let the convocation be held."

Many teachers say they do not know whether the university now has a VC or not—following the governor's termination letter and state government's letter backing Sau and questioning the legality of governor's letter. Since the chancellor is the appointing authority, teachers also wonder if Sau continued to exercise the duties, whether his signatures would be considered valid and fear that important administrative and academic works may come to a standstill due to this uncertainty. Some feel that the situation would become clear once JU opens on Wednesday.

Bengali department professor Rajyeswar Sinha says, "The university is the worst sufferer in this tussle between the government and the governor. Will the teachers now run to the courts to seek answers about the signing authority?" The head of the computer science and engineering department, Nandini Mukherjee, feels that many works might get stalled because of the uncertainty. "The National Board of Accreditation will come for a visit in my department and electronics and telecommunication department. The NAAC visit is scheduled soon. We do not know what will happen now. The university must seek legal opinion and the government and governor should come to an understanding for the sake of the universities."

JUTA general secretary Partha Pratim Roy says UGC chairperson M Jagadesh Kumar is aware of the governor's move and it is not clear now whether Sau's signature will be considered valid by central government funding agencies. Head of life science and biotechnology department Parimal Karmakar said, "We are apprehensive of

getting any document signed by him because we do not know whether his signature will be valid. We need financial approvals from the VC to buy instruments. We do not know whether his permission on these matters will still be valid or not.” Teachers also raised apprehension about the validity of the convocation degrees and hoped that the degrees will be replaced and sent to students by JU if questions are raised about it.

TOI tried to know from Sau whether he will continue as officiating VC, but he referred to the comment he made on Sunday: “I don’t know what my next step will be. There are high courts and the Supreme Court. I am a law-abiding citizen and will act as per law.”