

# In a first, university body approves constitution for JnUCSU

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Jagannath University's Syndicate body approved the long-awaited constitution for the Jagannath University Central Students' Union (JnUCSU), paving the way for the first-ever student union election in the university's history.

The special Syndicate meeting, held from 5:00pm to 8:40pm yesterday, finalised the draft constitution.

Vice-chancellor Prof Rezaul Karim confirmed the development around 9:00pm, saying that final procedures would be completed by Thursday or Sunday before the draft is sent to the education ministry for approval.

"After the president issues an ordinance, we will announce the election roadmap," he told reporters.

Under the approved framework, all regular students of the university will be eligible to vote and contest in the elections, with no age restrictions.

However, students enrolled in professional or special degree programmes -- including MPhil and PhD -- as well as full-time jobholders and those employed in government or private organisations, will be ineligible to participate. Part-time jobholders, however, will be allowed.

The constitution outlines JnUCSU's objectives as promoting the legacy of historic student movements -- from the Partition of 1947 and the Language Movement to the Liberation War, mass uprisings, and the July 2024 student protests.

It also aims to foster values of independence, democracy, justice, and national unity, while enhancing academic and extra-academic opportunities, leadership development, and cultural exchange.

The JnUCSU executive body will comprise 21 members. The VC will serve as president and the university treasurer will hold the treasurer post by virtue of office. The remaining 19 positions will be filled through direct election.

Provisions for hall unions have also been included. Each dormitory will have a hall students' union named after the respective hall, with a 17-member executive committee. The hall provost will serve as president by virtue of office, and seven directives have been outlined to guide hall union activities.

A Syndicate member present at the meeting said, "All decisions have been made in favour of the students. JnUCSU will be formed very soon. The election roadmap has not been finalised yet, but once the law is passed, the roadmap will follow. We are working to make it happen quickly."