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Ban on Student Politics

This is for the first time that university teachers in a large body, one hundred of JU teachers to be precise, have come forward taking an unambiguous public stance on student politics. Echoing the President's recent call for a 10-year moratorium on student politics they have formally declared this support for it urging that effective measures be taken to put it in place. Making a distinction between student activism in support of political parties and student politics that is internalised and purely institution-oriented — divorced from any links with national political parties — the teachers said they would not mind to see latter kind of 'politics' on the campus.

The print media by and large has already been forthcoming about President Shahabuddin's ringing calls for placing a ban on student politics reinforced by the political parties' failure to rid themselves of their student fronts and *vice versa*, despite the entreaties galore from all quarters. The guardians of students have been generally supportive of the President's concerns over political rectitude on the campus and his calls for a moratorium on student politics. Despite such overwhelming media and public endorsement of the moral position to exorcise vicious politics from the campus, there has been a missing link of a most vital component of the university population — the teachers — choosing to remain inarticulate about it. Now that Jahangirnagar University teachers have spoken, the teachers of other universities and important educational institutions must speak out too.

They are the cream of the society, leaders of education, guardians of the students and persons highly knowledgeable in the in's and out's of campus politics and outside environment. Last but not the least, the teachers are 'political animals', and so too are students, both highly perceptive of and keen on whatever is happening in the national political arena and having their opinions on it. For reasons of their intimate understanding of the students' sensibilities and requirements the teaching community is best placed to provide us guidance in this matter. They must first discuss the pros and cons of the proposed 10-year moratorium, come to a consensus on the definition of student politics that may be permissible within the four walls of academic institution given the dictum that 'today's students need to be groomed as tomorrow's leaders', and then publicly voice their comprehensive support for a suitable moratorium on student politics as we know it.