

The Hon'ble Chancellor,
Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University,
Visakhapatnam

23nd July, 2018

Subject: State of Affairs at Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University

Your Lordship,

We, the students of the Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam (hereinafter referred to as the “University”) are writing to you to put forth our grievances relating to the arbitrary and unreasonable exercise of powers by the Administrative authorities of the institute.

It is with immense regret, anxiety and a sense of urgency that the students of Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU) are writing to you regarding the state of affairs at this Varsity.

George Washington had once said that, “Arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness.” The very thing can be manifestly seen by the DSNLU administration and their targets are the students. Ranging from the examination rules to the implementation of those depends upon the whims and caprices of the examination department. Venting out vengeance by failing students is a very common trend developed by the university administration.

It is unfortunate that the University Authorities have not taken any steps as have been agreed to in the past, despite various representations regarding changes in rules, curriculum, improvement of faculties and facilities which would improve the standing and functioning of the University, and

have adopted a largely lethargic and nonchalant attitude towards the genuine demands of the students of the University. Repeated pleas for constructive change have been met with calming assurances which led to no results on ground.

In furtherance of the above, we request you to kindly take notice of such instances of maladministration which have taken place time and again. These have been broadly divided into the following heads-

A. VINDICTIVE ACTIONS OF EXAMINATION DEPARTMENT

1. Evaluation Pattern
2. Prejudiced Application of Grace Marks
3. Unreasonable Rules
4. Abrupt Introduction/Changing of Examination Rules
5. Notification and Publication of Examination Rules

B. STUDENT HARASSMENT

6. Arbitrary Disciplinary Proceedings
7. Denial of Deemed Attendance
8. Restraint on Academic and Personal Freedom

C. ACADEMIC MALADMINISTRATION

9. Discouraging attitude for placements
10. Standard of Teaching
11. Exercising of Existing Power by the Authorities

D. ACADEMIC, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUDIT OF THE UNIVERSITY

E. REFORMS DEMANDED

VINDICTIVE ACTIONS OF EXAMINATION DEPARTMENT

1. EVALUATION PATTERN

DSNLU has followed no clear or uniform method for evaluation of answer scripts. It is rather unfortunate that even the students in their fifth year have very little idea as to how to satisfactorily attempt an examination, as directed by the teachers vary largely with each teacher.

Previous instances have shown that students who have failed have secured 'D' (*Second highest attainable grade – the grading pattern has since been changed*) when the same answer scripts were sent for external re-evaluation outside the University. In another instance, the answer scripts of a Mid-Semester Examination, when sent for external re-evaluation saw a drastic increase by 6-8 marks. It has been seen in other instances as well that upon re-evaluation, the results underwent a drastic change. DSNLU has seen a catastrophic degradation in the recent result and evaluation mechanism. It is appalling that there have been instances where more than 65% students have failed one or more exam, not to mention that such high numbers of backlogs with a decent teaching programme is a very distant possibility and cannot be blamed on the students alone.

Furthermore, the University doesn't have fixed criteria for awarding of grace marks to the Students who have failed to clear their end semester paper by one or two marks. Some students are given grace marks while the others are not, without any reasoning whatsoever under the garb of discretionary exercise of powers.

Moreover, the display of answer sheets after publication of results was a welcome step. However, students do not have a fruitful re-evaluation system. It is regretful that the meagre practice of mere re-totalling of marks, is a partial and sole refuge to the aggrieved students, with the students being shown their answer scripts in huge bundles, without the presence of the respective faculty, or even the respective answer keys for the purpose of clarifications.

2. PREJUDICED APPLICATION OF GRACE MARKS

A student is awarded a total 1% of Grace Marks if he fails in any of the subjects in a semester. However, the anomaly starts when the likelihood of giving grace marks depends on whether the administration likes you or not. There are students who failed and got grace marks in three subjects and then, there are students who did not get even a single grace marks in spite of being eligible for the same. Upon confronting, the examination department about the same, they get dismissed by sway of hands and told, "Grace is not your right, and it's the discretion of the examination cell." Only those students, who are supposedly good in the eyes of the concerned authorities, are allowed the grace marks despite it being a well laid rule.

Instance1: In the academic year 2018-19, a student of third passed 5 out of 6 subjects and needed 3 marks grace in 1 subject to pass, he was denied the same on account of the marks being a discretion and not a right.

Instance 2: In academic year, 2017-18, a current fifth year student passed 4 out of 5 subjects in his 7th semester and needed 5 grace marks to pass in the fifth subject which was not awarded initially and the student was declared failed in spite of the rule being in place. After repeated confrontations and citing of the rule, the student was then awarded the entitled grace marks.

3. UNREASONABLE RULES

3.1. The Rule regarding malpractice is stated in the University Examinations Rules as follows:

*“14.8 Resorting to unfair means in examinations shall entail summary cancellation of candidature of the student and shall be on the recommendations of the Examination Committee which may lead to **debarring from the semester examinations** after inquiry by a Committee as the Vice-Chancellor may decide.”*

The rule stated above nowhere speaks about the candidate not being allowed to appear in the subsequent repeat examination. However, the unofficial promoted practice in the garb of arbitrariness is that, along with a student's semester examination being cancelled, he/she is not allowed to appear even in the subsequent attempt which unlawfully deprives him/her of an entitled attempt. A few students have been wrongfully penalised double for their act

in the above said manner which is another example of the examination department exercising its own tyranny.

3.2. The second unreasonable rule is with regards to the star mark displayed along with a subject in a report card. The star mark is usually put when a student is unable to clear his/her examination in the first attempt which is usually the consequence of not being able to pass. However, this rule was also amended to the disadvantage of the students as now a student who is attempting his exam for the first time later due to attendance shortage even for genuine reasons like sickness gets a star mark in his/her mark sheet. This rule which was earlier reasonable and favourable was suddenly amended to the disadvantage of the students.

3.3. The third bizarre rule that the examination department recently amended is with regards to the examination fee. It is to be noted that every student pays around Rupees 3000/- as fee towards examinations at the start of the academic year itself. The earlier rule demanded further examination fees only for the subsequent attempts and not for first attempt even if the first attempt is later due to attendance shortage. This rule too, was amended suddenly and the present rule even demands for examination fee for the first attempt if it is later due to attendance shortage. We do not understand as to why the student has to pay the fee twice for the first attempt upon attendance shortage when he/she is already penalised for the attendance shortage by not letting to appear for the examination.

4. ABRUPT INTRODUCTION/CHANGING OF EXAMINATION RULES

In June 2017, the University brought in a welcome rule regarding the examinations wherein every student is now entitled to 4 attempts to pass in each subject, the breakdown is as follows:

- The first attempt being the end semester examination upon securing a minimum of 70% attendance in that semester (November/April).
- The second attempt being repeat examinations conducted post vacation

(January/July).

- The third attempt being the backlog examination conducted in the next academic year (November/April).
- The fourth attempt being the special repeat examination conducted post backlog (January/July).

We acknowledge that the University has in its power to introduce new rules, however, it would be much appreciated if the same is brought in practice for a new academic year, being effective on the fresh admissions taking place in that academic year, or, if it is meant to be implemented on the existing students, it is implemented in a fair and unprejudicial manner. We would like to humbly put forward that exams are a mere assessment system and not a way to punish the young minds for their deeds, and thus there needs to be due emphasis on how the grades of the students can be improved.

Further, as per the UGC Guidelines for Students' Entitlement (which are issued by the UGC in order to help students, teachers, administrators and institutions understand what the minimum entitlement to the students are) Rule 1.2, annexed hereto as and marked as Annexure 1:

“a student seeking admission is entitled to a document (usually called ‘Prospectus’) that specifies the curricula including syllabi, names and academic profile and status of the faculty, mode and frequency of evaluation, duration of course, academic calendar, comprehensive information about fees or charges of any kind, and refund rules. The information given in the prospectus should not be changed to the disadvantage of the student during the course of study; any change if necessary must be communicated to each student individually spelling out the reasons for such a change.”

However, abrupt changes, let alone being notified on appropriate platforms like the University website, are implemented in a hasty manner which only result in further confusion and leave the students in a worse state than before.

Due to this abrupt timing of the introduction of the rule, students were, classified into three categories:

- a) Those that have backlogs in the odd semester

- b) Those that have backlogs in the even semester and
- c) Those that have backlogs in both odd and even semester.

The students who have a backlog in the odd semester, thus, have been given only three attempts to clear their examinations while the students who had a backlog in the even semester had four attempts to clear their examinations after the introduction of the said rule. The entire student body of DSNLU is of the opinion that mere 'bad luck' of failing in a subject in the odd semester cannot be a reasonable ground for detaining such a large number of students. It is pertinent to note that the said examination rules were applied only to the even semester of the Academic Year 2016-17, as a result of which the students who had a backlog in the odd semester in the Academic Year 2016-17 have had only three attempts to clear their respective examinations, creating a disparity among the students who have backlogs in the even semester and the odd semester. When a rule has been applied, whether the application was valid or invalid, it must be applied in a manner that is uniform and benefits all the students that are affected by it.

5. NOTIFICATION AND PUBLICATION OF EXAMINATION AND OTHER RULES

The Examination Rules are amended from time to time, however, are seldom published and notified in an adequate manner. They haven't been notified or updated on the website or through any other electronic means. The only updated copy of the rules lies with the Examination Department itself, and clarifications are conveyed orally to the students which creates avoidable confusion amongst the students. Further, students weren't notified that the previous time they attempted for the odd semester examinations was their last. Further, the odd semester examinations were conducted in the month of January, 2018 and the results of the same were declared on April, 2018. The students, during this entire time were not made aware or notified that the exams conducted in January, 2018 was their last attempt, mainly due to the confusion and indecision regarding the same among the University Authorities themselves. Only on 30th June, 2018, vide the aforementioned notification, were the students notified of their fate. Moreover, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor had assured the students of the University in April, 2018 that he would ensure that the students who had a backlog in the odd semester would be given one final chance to clear their papers.

Furthermore, the University is infamous for not being able to release a well-designed, stable Academic Calendar prior to the beginning of the Academic Year. The students aren't notified of the curricula and aren't given any sort of a course outline prior to the beginning of the semester.

Students from the 4th Year onwards aren't given a detailed explanation of the subjects in their optional courses, resulting in students making uninformed choices. The latest example for this is present itself wherein though the University re-opened on 9-7-2018, two weeks later still the academic calendar is not made available to the students.

A prospective student would find it extremely difficult to procure essential information that is taken into consideration while deciding on joining an Institution from the University Website, which contains out-dated information and rules as well as doesn't disclose up-to-date faculty details, hostel rules, etc.

FOR ALL THE ABUSE, MISUSE OF POWER AND PROFESSING DICTATORSHIP AT THE TEMPLE OF EDUCATION, THE STUDENTS OF DSNLU HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE IN THE DEAN OF EXAMINATIONS AND THEREFORE WE SEEK HER RESIGNATION/REMOVAL EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

STUDENT HARASSMENT

6. ARBITRARY DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

The disciplinary shoes are handled by the university in a very rash and vindictive manner by forming manifestly unjust committees to the detriment of the students. We believe that a National Law University, among all the other professional institutions should uphold the principles of law and justice, and must hold itself to a higher pedestal whereas here, 'Disciplinary Hearing' is nothing but a sentence hearing, where the student is only interrogated and punished without any proper right of hearing or rebuttal. Further, the punishments are regressing and not productive, as fines and suspensions are imposed on the students, whereas rather, the student can be made to write and publish an Academic

Paper, or given some other activity instead of collection of money in fines and suspensions. These suspensions result in nothing but students not writing their end semester examinations due to a shortage in attendance due to the suspension. Dual exercise of powers by the same persons in academic and administrative capacities is extremely prejudicial to the students. A few atrocities committed by the Disciplinary Committee are as follows:

- Immediate suspension of the student pending due enquiry even for instances where the rules nowhere mention a need for suspension.
- Not compensating the attendance lost during the suspended period if found not guilty after the conclusion of disciplinary proceedings.
- Forcing to vacate hostels for petty reasons like coming late to the campus by a few hours where again the rule book nowhere permits the same.
- Mentally harassing and using assassination of character by dwelling on a student's personal life as a tool to find him/her guilty.
- Imposing much enhanced punishment than what even the rule book permits and reasoning it by whatever logic the committee deems fit.

7. DENIAL OF DEEMED ATTENDANCE

This is to bring to your kind attention that last year saw two abrupt deviations in the attendance criteria of the University. While it brought us immense pleasure to learn that the regressive idea of getting marked for attendance was done away with however the threshold limit of attaining 70% including every Co-Curricular Activity, Moot Courts, Seminars, Debates, Internships (Practical Experience) is again an impractical imposition as such events require rigorous time and effort from the students which is not possible to be fulfilled with an additional burden of securing it within the current limitation. The reason given for the same change was that this measure is adopted in order to align the attendance rules in conformity with the UGC's/BCI's guidelines. However, this is to duly bring to your attention, that UGC

has recently issued no notice in relation to removal of the provision of deemed attendance. We are aware of and acknowledge the fact that every university has a minimum maintenance of 70% attendance, however there is a provision of Deemed Attendance, where attendance is provided, or the number of days such an event approved by the university is attended by a student, those days are not calculated by the university. [Annexure 3] In premier law institutes like NLU Jodhpur, such leverage is extended up to 15 days; such provision extends for a certain percentage. We do not express any wish for the university to change such bar of 70%. However, we strongly request to provide such provision of either deemed attendance or no calculation of such days missed in the total percentage for Moots, Debates and Seminars (Up to 14 working days) as was the earlier case, so that our careers and resumes can benefit from the same.

8. RESTRAINT OF ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL FREEDOM

The University's library shuts down at 2100 Hrs, and the Hostel rules, which are nowhere to be readily found, state that their halls of residence must be closed by 2200 Hrs. During the beginning stages in Feb 2017, the Authorities assured us that these issues would be looked into and are only temporary owing to the lack of infrastructure and that these issues would be resolved at the earliest. One and a half years later, no progress whatsoever has been made in that area. In the guise of security concerns, students have no freedom even within the campus which is quite secure now being a completely walled and monitored campus.

As students of the University, we completely understand and respect the curfew timings to get back to the campus premises within the stipulated time because of the safety issues outside the campus. However, the unaddressed issue of extending the timings of Library and Halls of Residence have simply been ignored by the authorities. Not having extended timings cause problems of not being able to sit back for moot court research work, publication research work and various other such team activities which involve students of both genders. We feel that restriction timings inside the campus must be relieved to a lot more extent in order to be able to access the University's facilities like library to much more/better use.

ACADEMIC MALADMINISTRATION

9. DISCOURAGING ATTITUDE FOR PLACEMENTS

The university has been suffering from dwindling employment opportunities, due to the approach of the administration which is not only unsupportive, but also has actively tried to stifle the same.

The students are to cough up a sum amounting to Rs. 1,500 over and above the fee that they pay if they are to get registered for placements, the need for which arises out of the non-availability of funds to the Placement Co-ordination Committee.

The students have been constantly requesting the authorities to appoint a placement officer for a significant period now. A placement officer is present in almost every National Law University who trains the students and helps them prepare for future placements and job opportunities. We feel a person of such designation is highly important and an urgent necessity for the students.

10. STANDARD OF TEACHING

We understand that a National Law University, being different from other traditional law colleges, is one where the dynamics of legal education lay special emphasis on vocational and professional training of students within the four corners of a classroom, and we sincerely believe that we should receive the same. A key requirement for this to be achieved is suitable faculty. Faculty is at the heart of an Academic Institution, and is a crucial indicator of the rankings of an Institution. However, DSNLU's faculty doesn't largely resemble that of a National Law University.

For instance, Alternative Dispute Resolution as a clinical paper requires actual field visits, continuous mocks arbitration sessions, video sessions etc., apart from plain classroom teaching similar to that of a social science subject. Whereas, the approach towards clinical paper subjects is similar to that of a regular subject. The University has also failed to retain teachers (they have now been appointed as Faculty in prestigious institutions) who were

appreciated by the students for their teaching methods and knowledge. In other instances, the faculty members aren't allotted subjects as per their area of expertise, instead the process is done just to fill in vacancies for the subjects allotted. Furthermore, the faculty, apart from a few exceptions, largely consists of people who read out of a textbook or slides prepared out of a textbook. All prospective and the current students of the university are fully capable to read from a textbook by themselves. The Students of this University chose to join this institution because of the merits it is expected to possess by virtue of being a National Law University. For students who are expected to pay approximately ten lakhs over a course of five years, a much better quality of education, professionalism, facilities, and resources are expected.

11. EXERCISING OF EXISTING POWERS BY THE AUTHORITIES

We herein bring to your kind attention that Rule 18.1 of the Examination Rules of our university, annexed hereto and marked as **Annexure 2, which** states that *“the Vice Chancellor, on the recommendation of the Examination Committee and in consultation with the Committee consisting of Head, Academic Affairs and two senior faculty members may make provisions for all matters not provided in these rules. The Vice Chancellor may also like wise decide on special rules including deviations from the existing rules to suit special situations. Provided he shall report on them to the Academic Council in its next meeting”* and thus, we urge the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor sir to kindly make use of such power and conduct the special exams, to ensure that this situation is dealt amicably. The present instance of over 73 students facing detention, which would result in the loss of a crucial year, is, in our opinion, an exceptional circumstance meritorious of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor's intervention in light of the grievances faced by the students and the severe consequences entailed. The conduct of the examinations would be most certainly in conformity with the existing rules and procedure mandated by the present Examination Rules and would not be in contravention of the recent judgement in Writ Appeal No. 479 of 2018.

Your Lordship, this is an application for giving the students a fair chance to clear their backlogs. It is not an application to pass and promote students in a biased and unfair

manner, but an application to ensure that the rights of students is protected from arbitrary actions and inconsistencies that have plagued the University. This would certainly not embolden the students to seek further and continuous relaxations.

This would not dilute the standards of the University, as awarding an opportunity to students to pass their exams does not automatically mean that they have passed and would do nothing more than maintain parity among the students who face detention and would save the careers of many who have been aggrieved by the inconsistent, abrupt and lethargic actions as well as inactions of the University Authorities. Further, it is difficult to grasp how conducting an examination for the students who have backlogs in the odd semester would result in a dilution of academic standards at the University for the following reasons:

- Students have already been given a chance (fourth attempt) for clearing their even semester backlogs; and
- Detention of such a large number of students would severely impact the reputation of the University.

The students must be given a fair chance to become competent members of the legal profession. We implore you to kindly reconsider your decision 19-07-18 (DSNLU/AAF/07/18) and direct the University to give the students their due and final chance on a humanitarian ground as well, as this would effectively ruin the careers of over 1/5th of the University, and be far worse to the standing of the University.

In order to resolve the aforesaid issues, the following demands are hereby laid down by the Students of DSNLU. We expect these demands to be met in full, at the earliest and would accept only written communication from the University Authorities henceforth, as various promises have been made without any accountability.

ACADEMIC, FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE AUDIT OF THE UNIVERSITY

The Students of DSNLU would like to take this opportunity to ask Your Lordship to order an Academic and Financial Audit of the University. It is essential to note that this is not a challenge to the academic credentials of the faculty employed by the University, but rather, the manner and methods employed by them to educate the students. We acknowledge that not all people who possess knowledge would necessarily make good teachers. In the academic year 2017-18, a few students from every batch were called up by the University to attend the demo classes being taken by prospective lecturers and their feedback was asked for. It is to be noted that amongst these lecturers, the ones who were marked extremely low by the students were also hired by the University and for reasons unknown; one of the prospective lecturer who was marked high for his teaching was not hired for the same post.

We also request Your Lordship to look into the issue of appointing a permanent ViceChancellor and Registrar of the University as these positions have been temporary for a long time which has been leading to a lot of uncertainties with respect to long term decision making.

We would also like to ask for a separate fund to be created for the amount collected as fines and used for development of the facilities provided by the University.

REFORMS DEMANDED

The demands put forth by us during the student agitation, in addition to the demand for resignation/removal of Dean of Examinations, are as follows:

- Lay down/update examination rules and pattern before the start of the academic year by publishing it on the University website clearly mentioning applicable rules of re-totalling, re-checking and external checking.
- Allowing external checking in cases of discrepancies as a regular procedure than a circumstantial discretion.

- Release and publishing of the academic calendar before the start of the academic year on the University website.
- Follow and publish on website the existing rules with regards to grace marks without using any kind of discretion to differentiate between students.
- Not to profess the punishments which do not exist in the rule book as a matter of discretion.
- Not to impose fines on appearing for the examinations for the first time upon shortage of attendance as the examination fee for the first attempt is already collected at the start of the academic year with the main fee.
- Not to put star mark on the mark sheet for subject for which a student fails to appear in the main examination but appears in the subsequent examinations for the first time due to reasons like short attendance.
- Introduce, Notify on the University website, any changes in the examination rules only before the start of the academic year and not midway through the academic year.
- Allow students with pending examinations in odd semester another opportunity to appear for the examinations as they received one less opportunity as compared to the students having examinations pending in even semester.
- Appoint a neutral external member as the head of the Disciplinary Committee who shall hold the session once a month and look into issues of violation of code of conduct.
- Strictly adhere to the existing rule book with regards to code of conduct and other guidelines prescribed in the rule book and not use absolutely any discretion whatsoever.
- Compensate for the attendance lost during suspension pending due enquire in case of a student being found not guilty.
- Inculcate the provision of deemed attendance as stated above for external participation like Moots, Debates, Publications, Sports etc.

- Increase the Library timings to 0230 hours in order to be able to use the facilities for a longer period.
- Appoint a placement officer within the next 15 days.
- Publish on website the updates examination rules and hostel rules.
- Set up a transparent external Audit committee to review and address the grievances with respect to academic affairs.
- Set up a separate and transparent account of all the fines being collected and display their usage.
- Amend the Examination Rules to include the scope of Improvement Examinations, as had been suggested and accepted by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor in a similar representation made earlier.

Sincerely,

Students of Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University

Guidelines for Students' Entitlement

These guidelines have been issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in order to help students, teachers, administrators and institutions understand what the minimum entitlements of the students are. These guidelines apply to all the colleges and universities in the country (this expression includes every institution of higher education even if it is not called college/university) without any exception. It shall be mandatory for every college/university to publish the present Guidelines in full in its Prospectus and also post it on the homepage of its website.

Fulfillment of these entitlements imposes obligations on educational institutions, administrators, policy makers, teachers and students themselves. If these obligations are not met, a student can approach the Grievance Redressal Authority or the Ombudsman. Any serious or persistent violation of these Guidelines can be brought to the notice of the University Grants Commission and can be the basis of punitive action against the offender.

Some of the provisions stated here are already covered by existing laws or Rules and Regulations of the UGC. But the students shall continue to enjoy all the right under existing laws, rules and regulations which may not have been mentioned in these Guidelines.

1. Admission

1.1. An announcement or advertisement for any course of study must clearly specify whether the degree granted is notified by the UGC and other relevant statutory authorities [Under Section 22 c of the UGC Act, latest list available at the UGC website] and whether the university that awards the degree figures in the list of universities maintained by the UGC [available at the UGC website].

1.2. A student seeking admission is entitled to a document (usually called 'Prospectus') that specifies the curricula including syllabi, names and academic profile and status of the faculty, mode and frequency of evaluation, duration of the course, academic calendar, comprehensive information about fees or charges of any kind, and refund rules. The information given in the prospectus should not be changed to the disadvantage of the

student during the course of study; any change if necessary must be communicated to each student individually spelling out reasons for such a change.

- 1.3. The Prospectus must spell out exactly the process and criteria for admissions. This includes weightage given to previous academic performance, entrance examination and interview. The syllabi and format of the entrance examination must be spelt out. The final scores of each candidate who appeared for entrance examination including all the components and the entire waiting list must be made public.
- 1.4. Information about any reservations or quota for any category, the eligibility criteria for these reservations/quotas, certificate required for seeking admission under these must be stated clearly in the Prospectus.
- 1.5. The student must not be asked to produce documents which have not been mentioned in the Prospectus. While the institution can ask the student to produce the original documents (such as School Leaving Certificate, Marksheet, Caste certificate) for verification, they cannot retain any original documents of any students. [As notified by UGC on 23rd April 2007, F. No. 1-3/2007 (CPPE II)].

Annexure 2

Examination Rules DSNLU

8.1 Rule 18 Matters not provided

18. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED:

18.1 The Vice Chancellor, on the recommendation of the Examination Committee and in consultation with the Committee consisting of Head, Academic Affairs and two senior faculty members may make provisions for all matters not provided in this rules. The Vice Chancellor may also like wise decide on special rules including deviations from the existing rules to suit special situations. Provided he shall report on them to the Academic Council in its next meeting

18.2 The Vice Chancellor may likewise take action in case of emergencies upon recommendation of the Examination Committee and in consultation with Head, Academic Affairs and two senior faculty members.

18.3 The University reserves the right to modify, change, amend or review the examination rules, as it may at any time deem fit: provided that no changes shall apply retrospectively to the detriment of students. All changes shall be duly notified.

18.4 Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules the Academic Council may, in special circumstances, give appropriate dispensation on the merits of each case.

18.5 The rules shall always be subject to the UGC and Bar Council of India regulations and any other applicable rules.

Annexure 3

- (e) The Examination and Evaluation Management Department comprising the administrative officials under the supervision of the Head of the Examination and Evaluation Management Department shall work under the overall guidance and supervision of the Examination Committee. The rights and obligations of the Head of the Examination and Evaluation Management Department shall be governed by the Academic Directive.
- (f) All internal policy related matters flowing from the Act, Regulations, decisions of statutory bodies shall normally be issued in the name of the Chief Examiner or the Registrar, while all administrative, executive, practical, logistics, communicative information shall normally be issued by the Head of the Examination and Evaluation Management Department.
- (g) Any issue arising out of the implementation/interpretation of the examinations held by this University or facilitated on behalf of the CLAT and any such institutions, shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Gandhinagar/Ahmedabad only.

REGULATION II
ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT AND LEAVE OF AUTHORIZED
ABSENCE

- (a) Attendance of at least 70% of the total number of classes held in each subject is compulsory. Student failing to obtain 70% attendance in a given subject is prohibited and shall not be allowed to appear in the semester-end examination for that subject and will be required to re-register himself for that subject when it is again scheduled to be offered in regular course. Provided, the percentage of physical attendance required in each subject shall be in accordance with the Bar Council of India guidelines or 70% whichever is higher. The percentage shall stand to be automatically changed upon changes effected by the Bar Council of India. In case, if the change is effected during an on-going academic semester, the amended requirement shall be effective from the following academic semester.
- (b) If a student for any exceptional reasons (approved co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, medical, bereavement reasons) fails to attend 70% of the classes held in a subject, the Chief Examiner may allow the student to take the exam, with the approval of the concerned Committee and the Director, if the student concerned attended at least 67% of the classes held in the subject.
- (c) Student who fails to obtain the required percentage of physical attendance in all the subjects of a given semester (either odd or even) shall be ineligible for appearing in the semester-end examination of that semester. He shall apply for re-admission for that year, when it is again scheduled to be offered.
- (d) Leave of absence from the classes may be claimed in the following manner for the following reasons only:

National Law University, Jodhpur

RULES OF ATTENDANCE

No student of any program shall be allowed to take the end semester examination in a subject if the student concerned has not attended minimum of 70% of the classes held in the subject concerned as also moot court room exercises, tutorials and practical training conducted in the subject taken together.

Provided that if a student for exceptional reasons fail to attend 70% of the classes held in any subject, the Vice-Chancellor may allow the student to take the examination if the student concerned attended at least 65% of the classes held in that subject and attended 70% of the classes in all the subjects taken together

Notes:

1. Maximum relaxation in attendance is 5% in individual subject for exceptional reasons such as medical/ health, inability for any unforeseen circumstances, participation in sports, games, cultural activities etc. However, the aggregate attendance in all subjects, taken together, shall have to be at least 70%.
2. Students participating in moot court competition, practical training by way of internship and other academic activities shall be entitled to attendance, which for convenience be called deemed attendance, as per the prescribed protocols.

PROTOCOL FOR THE GRANT OF DEEMED ATTENDANCE

1. Deemed attendances shall be available only for prior approved participation in an academic program.
2. All requests for deemed attendance will have to be submitted prior to the departure to the office of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor. The applications along with the copies of the supporting documents, in the prescribed proforma, will have to be routed through the proper channels as mentioned below: