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தேதி  
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Date  
22/09/2022



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**Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka**  
**ශාස්ත්‍ර පීඨය, පේරාදෙණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව**  
**கலைப்பீடம், பேராதனைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம், இலங்கை**

**STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE FACULTY BOARD OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS,  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA TO ALL STUDENTS OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS**

- While reiterating its principled position that each and every student of the Faculty of Arts should have free and complete access to all public facilities and areas of the faculty and university, and that all students should be bound by the same rules and regulations equally, and while standing firmly by the basic right of students to be free from all forms of harassment, intimidation and discrimination,

The Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Peradeniya

- Strongly condemns the fact that student groups and individuals have forcibly prevented and intimidated other students from enjoying the common and shared facilities and resources of the university, including by the use of physical and verbal violence, particularly but not restricted to the brutal and inhuman actions perpetrated by a student faction against their colleagues who were attempting to have lunch at the Arts Faculty canteen (popularly identified as the Gemba Canteen) in two separate incidents on 14.09.2022, despite and in open defiance of the presence of academic staff members at the time.

And

- Firmly and unequivocally denounces the cowardly actions of a faction of students, who, on 15.09.2022, misused the faculty premises to viciously insult and demean the Faculty of Arts through malicious personal attacks against the Dean and other faculty members merely because the Faculty took steps to prevent the brutal attacks and blatantly illegal acts of the previous day. The Faculty Board hereby informs the students that deliberately attempting to undermine the credibility and integrity of the Faculty of Arts will not be tolerated, and, hence, a full disciplinary investigation will be carried out to bring the culprits to book, irrespective of their position within the student body.

And

- Expresses its concern and dissatisfaction that students who claim to be representatives of the Arts Faculty Student Union, did not attend the Special Faculty Board meeting held on 20.09.2022 to discuss this issue, as agreed at the meeting with the Heads in the morning. They provided neither an excuse to the Dean before the meeting as to why they were absent, nor did they submit an explanation afterwards, thereby deliberately undermining the purpose of the meeting and sabotaging the attempt at resolving the present crisis. In light of the continued negative publicity that the Faculty of Arts has received on a daily basis in the mass media, this dilatory tactic can only be interpreted as an attempt to prolong the problem and thereby bring the Faculty to further disrepute.

Based on the above, and after a careful and extensive discussion, the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Peradeniya unanimously confirms its decision that

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1. **All students** of all group's associations and unions, irrespective of their identities, affiliations and perspectives **should actively abide by the principle that no restrictions can be placed by anyone limiting others' access to public spaces and/or their right to use all public facilities** in these faculty and university spaces as determined by the administration. The fact that all such groups will abide by this principle should be established through a written pledge and agreement that they collectively submit to the Dean, Faculty of Arts. In particular, the acceptance of this principle must be acknowledged in writing by the Arts Faculty Student Union as they claim to be the representatives of the students.
2. **There should be no discrimination among/between groups of students based on their gender, or their political, ideological, religious, cultural, linguistic or other values and perspectives.** Nor should membership of any group confer special privileges on anyone over and above others who are not members, as related to the general rights and privileges of students. All student bodies must adhere to university regulations while respecting the rights of others, and if any such discrimination or preferential treatment has existed in the past, this should be stopped with immediate effect
3. **If all students, and especially the Arts Faculty Student Union and their representatives on behalf of the student body, do not formally endorse and agree to the statements 1 and 2 above in writing by Friday 23 September, the Faculty will suspend all academic work with the students (conducting lectures online or physical, discussion classes, practicals and other related activities), until further notice.** This decision has been taken with regret as a last resort, since there is no viable principled alternative to ensure the protection and dignity of all students and staff of the Faculty.

This statement is issued by unanimous agreement of the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Peradeniya at its meeting held on 20 September 2022.



Prof. J.M. Ananda Jayawickrama  
Acting Dean  
Faculty of Arts  
22/09/2022

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