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DU V-C places semester on rail

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The Delhi University has finally seized on the semester system. In an urgent meeting of the Academic Council (AC) and the Executive Council (EC), the syllabi for the subjects that were yet to be approved for the semester system has got the nod. Delhi University Vice Chancellor Dinesh Singh had called for an urgent meeting on Monday on a very short notice. For the first time in the history of Delhi University both AC and EC met on the same day back to back to finalize and approve the syllabus for the semester mode.

For courses like English (Hons), Geography, Economics, History and Sociology where the syllabi had not been prepared and debated, the Vice Chancellor appealed the members of the AC to approve the ordinance regarding mechanical division of the syllabus of the above courses. Despite dissent from some members the syllabus got approval. The same was approved by the Executive Council later in the day. "The Vice Chancellor asked the members of the AC, the authority for mechanical division of the syllabus of the courses that have not yet got the approved of the concerned departments to go into the semester mode. The syllabus are yet to be prepared. The Vice Chancellor proposed for the mechanical division of the syllabus and got its approval from the house. Though four members voted against the ordinance, but the majority voted in its favor," said Dr MR Chikara, a member of the AC.

The teaching fraternity of the university has been strongly opposing the semester system. The meeting on Monday was called at a very short notice by the university authorities. "The meeting was called to approve the syllabi of eighteen honors courses and sufficient time to discuss the syllabus with the concerned teachers had not been given," said a member of the Democratic Teachers' Front (DTF).

The next hearing of the Writ Petition filed by the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) in the Delhi High Court is due on the April 28. The court on February 8 had ordered that the teachers in the Delhi University and its affiliated colleges will not indulge in any kind of strike or protest and to continue to teach in the semester mode. Though DUTA has been keeping quite because of the order of the court several other teacher associations have been protesting against the semester system. However the course for all the subjects has now been approved and they will be taught in the semester system from the coming academic year.