



## **Press Statement** **August 9, 2017**

BRAC University formed an Inquiry Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017 to investigate certain events which took place on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The committee, drawn from different stakeholder groups, was composed of Professor A. F. M. Yusuf Haider, Ph.D., Chairperson, Department of Mathematics & Natural Science, BRAC University; Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, Ph.D., Former Chair, Department of English, Dhaka University; Professor Afsan Chowdhury, Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University; Mr. Tajdin Hassan, President, Alumni Association, BRAC University; and Ms. Maimuna Syed Ahmed, Student Representative, School of Law, BRAC University.

The Inquiry Committee fulfilled its role according to the Terms of Reference given below:

- a. Ascertain the chain of events on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 and identify discrepancies both in terms of facts and interpretations;
- b. Whether the principle of due process was followed regarding the ending of Mr. Farhaan Uddin Ahmed's contract; and
- c. Put forward their findings and recommendations within 5 (five) working days (if not before) from 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2017 based on (a) and (b) to resolve the current situation. They may also recommend changes in policies and guidelines.

BRAC University received the report from the Inquiry Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 8:30 pm. The University is immensely grateful to the 5-member committee for the timely completion and delivery of this important report. In the spirit of transparency, BRAC University has decided to make public the specific recommendations as contained in the report of the Committee (see below).

Recommendations:

1. *We believe that the Registrar had no legal right to ask anyone to hold back another individual against their will. He should be reprimanded for the utterance of such an aggressive and provocative word against another individual. He thus committed unlawful restraint. As the Registrar had no legal authority, whatsoever, to unlawfully restrain Mr. Ahmed against his will, either by himself, or by ordering others to do so, we are recommending his resignation, and in case of non-compliance, his termination to be followed in due process of law.*

2. *We recommend that Mr. Ahmed's termination/confirmation be resolved based solely on his academic research, teaching evaluation, service to university, community service, and self-development, and not by invoking clause 7 of the appointment letter and also not based on the PDC's evaluation.*

The Inquiry Committee also recommended changes in policies and guidelines.

BRAC University will address recommendations (1) and (2) of the Inquiry Committee as expeditiously as possible following due process. Longer term changes in policies and guidelines will be addressed in due course.

BRAC University reaffirms its commitment to fairness and justice for students, faculty and staff following due process. It is also deeply committed to maintaining academic excellence, safety of its students, and building deeper bonds of trust within the BRAC University family.