The students must not be used for the purposes of political gains and be fodder for the party-based political agitations. If a law is enacted allowing students to directly join a political party of their choice but prohibiting student political bodies on campus, calm will return to the campuses in no time.

The example of private universities serves to prove that the students are really not interested to do politics directly while studying in college and university. In most national universities, political parties wilfully mix up student life with politics for their own political gain, something that ultimately hurts the students who are the future leaders of our country.

The present government may recall that the student bodies have hardly played any role in bringing them their huge election victory. So why involve the helpless students in disastrous party politics and make them extortionists, rent seekers, forced occupiers of halls and hostels, etc and thus ruin their careers? Leave them alone!

Non-Political Union

The students can, however, have a common association/union without any party political colour, which could take care of their interests in the academic and hall/hostel affairs. Regular elections could be held for such association/union where they would indeed be able to show their leadership qualities. Such systems with small modifications here and there are observed in the academic institutions in many of the developed countries of the world.

Glorious History

My efforts so far is not to take away anything from the past glorious contributions of students in national issues like Language Movement, Liberation War, movement against undemocratic authoritarian rule, etc.

One feels that the student community as a whole can always rise up in the unlikely event of any form of attack on the country's sovereignty and other common issues of interest of the country which generally erases the party political borders. In other words, regardless of political affiliations, all would then work together to protect the interest of the country.

Teachers' Politics

Teachers involved in politics should have a similar prescription. If they want, they could also join political parties of their choice and do political activities outside campus. However, when they return to their respective campuses, they should engage in teaching, research, student guidance, etc and not be involved in party politics. They can also express their views openly and freely without any party political bias.

The bottom line is there should be no party politics making the campus life miserable and dangerous. Teachers can have their own associations without any political party line. They should also speak on common problems that the country faces and offer their perspectives without bringing party politics or any kind of bias into their discussions.

What is important is that they should not do party politics for uplifting their positions in the universities. Their rise through the academic echelons of power should be based strictly on merit and research work and certainly not on political affiliations.

Appointments of Deans

The present system of election for the post of dean must end. Deans are generally required to do administrative work, but they are very often required to teach too. The university authorities should appoint deans strictly on the basis of experience, and not on the basis of their political performances or affiliations.

If the deans are appointed on the basis of elections, then the teachers remain engaged in politics and do not concentrate on teaching. This leads to alignment of teachers with student politics on party lines, leading to the politicisation of the campus administration.

Appointments of Vice-Chancellors

The appointments of VCs are also usually done on political considerations and the results are usually disastrous, as the VCs belonging to the political party in power cannot really run the university administration neutrally.

He has to show partisanship in his administration and also in academic affairs, i.e., appointing teachers on party lines regardless of their academic qualifications. Even the academic results are often manipulated to the advantages of the political party/coalition in power. Independent and fully neutral search committees without government interventions should be introduced for the purpose of appointments of VCs in the universities.

It is absolutely necessary to free the campuses of party politics in the best interests of the students and the teachers. The students, teachers, and other academics must be allowed to pursue their academic life independent of party politics.

Muslehuddin Ahmad was the principal sponsor and founder Vice-Chancellor of North South University.