

Pakistan Medical Commission

Second Council Meeting

Friday, October 16th 2020

Held at PMC, Islamabad

Present

Dr. Arshad Taqi, President
Mr. Muhammad Ali Raza, Vice President
Lt. General Nigar Johar Khan, Surgeon General of Pakistan, Member
Mr. Tariq Ahmed Khan, Member
Dr. Asif Loya, Member
Dr. Anees ur Rehman, Member
Dr. Rumina Hassan, Member (on line)
Ms. Roshana Zafar, Member (on line)

Dr Shaista Zeeshan (Secretary)

Meeting was chaired by the President and called to order

The meeting started with recitation of the Holy Quran

The President welcomed all members of the Council.

Mr. Aamir Ashraf Khawaja could not attend due to his recent surgery. The members prayed for his early recovery and return to health.

Agenda Item No.1	Registration of over and above students from the past
Discussion	<p>All colleges at time of recognition are allocated a fixed number of seats. The limit has been consistently violated in past years by both Private and Public Colleges. Many of these violations were permitted by PM&DC by way of allowing special quota seats above the limit or allowing private colleges to fill vacant seats from previous year in the following year. In some cases where colleges violated the fixed limit penalties were also imposed by PM&DC and in some cases recovered as well. However, students who were above the fixed limits in most cases remained unregistered with the PM&DC. Many of these students have graduated and are awaiting licenses, while many others are still in colleges and in some cases universities have not allowed them to sit professional exams because of lack of registration.</p> <p>The case is one of penalizing the students for a violation committed by the colleges or an exception granted by the regulator. The student has been admitted, has paid fee and has been studying. It is therefore, necessary to</p>



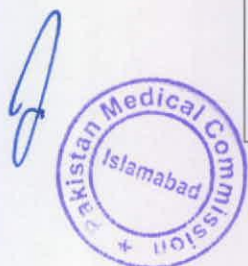
	<p>consider a one time policy to register all students whose registration has been withheld in view of the over and above reason or where the college allowed admission in spite of the penalty imposed by the regulator.</p> <p>In addition it is essential to declare a policy that henceforth no college can violate the fixed maximum limit and any quotas declared by the Government for public colleges must be accommodated within the upper limit fixed as that represents the college ability to impart quality education based on its capacity.</p>
Decision	<p>It was decided that the students will be registered in the PMC database as per the lists already provided by the Universities. This will enable the students to continue their education and apply for licensing in the future. Universities shall be responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the data provided by them. Any registration, if found incorrect upon verification will be cancelled and liable to disciplinary action against the college/university.</p> <p>In terms of quota seats which in the past had been violated resulting in induction of students over and above assigned limit. It was decided that the quota seats must remain within the maximum seats allocated to the college. No college to exceed the number of seats allocated to it. Moreover, it is clarified that MDCAT exam is compulsory for all admissions including the students admitted on quota seats</p> <p>Recommendations to be made to Ministry of Health to issue directives to the scholarship granting authorities like HEC and others to ensure that the referrals on quota seats must be completed by 1st January of each year.</p>
Agenda Item No.2	Recovery of imposed Penalties for over and above admissions on colleges
Discussion	Penalties imposed on numerous colleges in the past for different violations including unauthorized admissions are pending. These are required to be recovered as all such past decisions stand saved under the PMC Act 2020.
Decision	<p>Finance Department directed to prepare list of all pending penalties imposed and place before the Finance Committee for verification.</p> <p>Colleges will be given a fixed date prior to start of admissions for the 2021 session, by which time they are required to pay their outstanding penalties otherwise the amounts may be recovered against bank guarantees provided by these colleges. If the bank guarantees do not suffice, then the matter should be referred to Medical Tribunal and admissions for the session 2021 of the offending college stopped.</p> <p>If any college has been imposed a penalty for admitting students prior to being recognized, and has since been recognized, their students should be</p>



	also accepted for registration and such registration should not be connected to recovery of penalties.
Agenda Item No.3	Issuance of Experience certificate
Discussion	<p>In the past experience certificates for faculty were issued for purposes of promotion of faculty. PM&DC under its repealed regulations had also framed promotion requirements. Under the PMC Act 2020 the educational regulations of institutions is to be undertaken by the HEC and the Universities.</p> <p>Faculty hiring and their promotion is the subject and domain of the employer institution. The promotion of faculty in a college affiliated with a university is directly linked to the relevant criteria established under rules and regulations by the university or HEC. Similarly those seeking employment in government service and hired through the Federal or Provincial Public Service Commissions have to meet additional criteria as the government is the employer.</p> <p>A licensed doctor registered with PMC would however, be required to notify PMC of having elected to become faculty and their license data would be updated with such status and their current employment retained in record for purposes of verification of faculty standards of institutions etc.</p>
Decision	<p>PMC has no direct involvement in setting the promotion criteria for faculty. Minimum academic standards of faculty will be developed by the Academic Board which would be required to be taken as minimum benchmark by the employing institutions and universities when undertaking their promotions of faculty. HEC as the principal academic regulator will set the criteria based on the guidelines/standards laid down by the Academic Board and also ensure implementation at institutional level. Consequently, any experience certificate requested would be the primary responsibility of the employing institution.</p> <p>PMC shall for the immediate period provide to the HEC the faculty promotion criteria's in vogue prior to the establishment of PMC with a request to adopt the same for the interim period to assist faculty and institutions in terms of faculty promotions.</p> <p>PMC will no longer issue experience certificates for faculty promotion and experience. However, licensed practitioners will be required to register their status as faculty with PMC as part of their license portfolio and Faculty Registration data to be maintained by PMC being a single point of verification of all licensees.</p>



Agenda Item No.4	Recognition of Journals
Discussion	<p>In the past Medical journals were recognized by PM&DC. Keeping in view that promotion of Medical and Dental faculty will be dealt by HEC and Medical Journals being a key ingredient to evaluate faculty and their promotion recognition and registration of Medical Journals may also be maintained by HEC.</p> <p>HEC has existing standards for recognition of journals and they have the required competency and expertise to develop standards for Medical Journals.</p>
Decision	<p>Recognition and registration of journals to be referred to HEC. PMC shall in the future neither register nor renew any journals irrespective of their registration in the past with PM&DC.</p> <p>Any journal seeking to be recognized shall be required to approach the HEC for being reviewed and graded in accordance with HEC or international standards.</p>
Agenda Item No.5	Registration of Clinical and Academic Qualifications on license and by PMC.
Discussion	<p>PMC is a licensing regulatory body for the medical and dental profession. For purposes of licensing, the clinical qualifications of a practitioner are relevant. Numerous practitioners acquire academic qualifications in addition to their clinical qualifications. Such academic qualifications are the domain of the HEC for purposes of verification being university degrees.</p> <p>In the past a practice existed where academic qualification of a licensed practitioner were endorsed on their license. Such qualifications are not relevant to the practice of a practitioner or qualification to practice medicine or dentistry. It further resulted in multiple misrepresentations by some practitioners to the general public who were not aware of the difference.</p>
Decision	<p>As per law and the policy only clinical qualifications of licensed practitioners are to be endorsed on a practitioner's license in the future. For any academic qualification to be verified, the same should be verified from HEC or the granting authority as the case may be.</p>
Agenda Item No.6	External Auditor appointment
Discussion	<p>The Finance Committee has proposed the hiring of an External Auditor which is a mandatory requirement. For such purpose a public advertisement must be given along with RFP which may be prepared by the Finance Committee.</p>



	External auditor is immediately required as a mandatory condition.
Decision	The External Auditor should be appointed through a merit based process after due advertisement at the earliest to initiate work on any remaining pending audits. The Finance Committee shall oversee the process and recommend the auditor selected for appointment to the Council.
Agenda Item No.7	Special Auditor for Quality Audit appointment
Discussion	<p>The Finance Committee has proposed the hiring of a Special Auditor for Quality Audit of past audits conducted before acknowledging and finalizing the same.</p> <p>The Chair of the Finance Committee explained that this was essential as on the face of it the combined five year audits carried out by the Ad Hoc Council appeared to have been done in haste by an audit firm which did not have any known standing. It was essential therefore, to conduct a quality audit prior to the Council approving these previous audits and adopting them.</p>
Decision	The appointment of a Special auditor for Quality Audit was approved. The Special Auditor to be appointed through a merit based process after due advertisement at the earliest to initiate work on any remaining pending audits. The Finance Committee shall oversee the process and recommend the auditor selected for appointment to the Council
Agenda Item No.8	Forensic Audit requirement of past accounts
Discussion	<p>The Finance Committee has proposed a historic forensic audit of the PM&DC accounts to enable the Commission to comply with the requirements of Section 49 and Section 50(4) and (5) of the PMC Act 2020 prior to merging all past accounts into PMC and also calculating the payables and dues of employees of PM&DC merged into PMC.</p> <p>During the forensic audit the outstanding audit objections of the Auditor General to be also resolved and a final report to be submitted to the Auditor General and DAC.</p> <p>In terms of the issue of past paid Health Allowance, and the Council's earlier decision to not include it in the interim salary structure for the months of October and November 2020 till the final permanent salary structure is settled and approved by the Council, it may be treated as held in abeyance for the months of October and November salaries of the employees, subject to a final resolution of the Auditor General's objection. If the same is found to have been properly paid the amount for the months of October and November can be paid at such time.</p>



Decision	<p>It was approved that Special Auditor appointed for Quality Audit shall also be mandated to undertake the necessary Forensic Audit on terms to be stipulated by the Finance Committee.</p> <p>The forensic audit report will be submitted to the Auditor General. The amount on account of health allowance as part of the previous salary structure shall be calculated for the months of October and November. It shall be retained or provisioned for by the Finance department subject to the final outcome of the Auditor General's objection</p>
Agenda Item No. 09	Bank Guarantees provided by colleges.
Discussion	<p>Private colleges had in the past provided bank guarantees to PM&DC as part of their registration process. These bank guarantees were required when PM&DC was regulating the entire process of a private college.</p> <p>As the PMC under the PMC Act 2020 is not regulating the educational registration of the colleges and would be registering with it colleges recognized by HEC after inspection as per mandated standards issued by PMC, the requirement of these bank guarantees has become redundant.</p> <p>It was noted that prior to any release of guarantees the outstanding liabilities of the colleges must be finalized and cleared. Thereafter, these guarantees should be transferred to HEC as the regulator of these colleges.</p>
Decision	<p>Finance Department to prepare a detailed report of total valid bank guarantees held by PMC. Any outstanding payments or penalties due from colleges may be settled against bank guarantees if the colleges fail to pay the same.</p> <p>Upon completion of the process and discussion with HEC, the Council will consider the status of the remaining guarantees.</p>
Agenda Item No.10	Presentation on proposed Admission Process to Private Colleges for 2020-2021
Discussion	<p>The central admission process for private colleges has been finalized and structured which provides for all aspects to avoid past issues in centralized admissions. This includes a completely automated system to remove the human interference element as well as providing students a right to choose rather than forcibly placing students in colleges on the basis of a presumptive ranking. This would ensure the system is as close as possible to the intent of the law for admission to private colleges.</p> <p>The student will have access to his/her status as to where he stands in the merit and therefore will have the liberty to decide for himself.</p>



	The detailed final structure will be widely publicly publicized to ensure students are fully aware of the system and are able to make the necessary choices.
Decision	The council agreed to the proposal. In order to manage this process efficiently, all provincial and federal governments to ensure that Public Colleges close their admissions by 31 st December. Private College merit lists to be issued on finalized by 1 st January 2021.
Agenda Item No.11	Tender of Admissions Software
Discussion	It was discussed that Post holding of the MDCAT, the Commission has to undertake a central admissions process for the private colleges across Pakistan as decided by the Council. The software and facilities required as per the presentation for the admission process has after inquiry been found to be available with five different software providers who can provide the same with necessary modifications in the time period. The system has to be made live and functional by 15 th November 2020. The case falls squarely within Clause (d)(iii) of Rule 42 of PPRA Rules 2004 empowers a procuring agency to engage in negotiated tendering with one or more suppliers or contractors with or without prior publication of procurement notification for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable by the procuring agency, the time limits for open and limited bidding methods cannot be met. Hence, all five shortlisted firms have been provided an RFP and to submit their technical and financial offers.
Decision	The Council approved the grant of a negotiated tender for the services of software and services of operating the central admission system. The shortlisted firms will be evaluated by a technical committee headed by Director IT and two external members recommending the preferred supplier. The final selected supplier be granted the contract approved by the President.
Agenda Item No.12	Notification of a Committee for National Admission System vendor selection
Discussion	It was discussed that in order to procure the services of a reputable firm for the National Admission System, a committee may be notified with the following scope of work: ➤ To prepare and finalize the RFP document for a negotiated tendering bidding procedure



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Submission of RFP to a short list of vendors who have similar scope of product available ➤ Evaluate the vendors technical/financial proposals and submit the results of the evaluation to the competent authority for approval
Decision	<p>Following members were nominated for the committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Syed Raza shah, Director IT, Pakistan Medical Commission – Chair 2. Saflain Haider, Chief Information Officer, National Institute of Health (NIH) – External Member 3. Zahid Ali Ashraf, Infrastructure team lead, National Institute of Health (NIH) – External Member
Agenda Item No.13	Future criteria for registration of colleges and recommendations to Board for academic standards.
Discussion	<p>In terms of future criteria for registration of medical and dental colleges in Pakistan ,the Council can provide to the Academic Board certain recommendations.</p> <p>One primary area of concern is that in the past medical colleges were recognized without having any previously operational hospital. Effectively colleges were setup with brand new private hospitals which had no patient flow. It takes a private hospital between 3-5 years to develop a considerable patient flow which can reasonably provide the benchmark for teaching students. This lacuna resulted in multiple private colleges being setup which for years and even now do not have the requisite occupied beds capable of teaching students the clinical curriculum.</p>
Decision	<p>The council decided that a minimum period of 7 years be fixed for a private hospital to be operational at the level of and in terms of the minimum requirements of a teaching hospital, prior to allowing it to be affiliated with a medical college as a teaching hospital. Same shall be a precondition for recognition. The teaching hospital shall be inspected by the Commission on the basis of criteria applicable to a hospital offering House Job pursuant to Section 29 of the PMC Act and if the hospital qualifies the inspection it shall be permitted to be affiliated as a teaching hospital to a college.</p> <p>Furthermore, the last approved Accreditation Criteria 2019 and the Medical and Dental Curriculum 2019 shall be recognized as valid and continuing till reviewed and changes recommended by the Academic Board, subject to the condition of 7 years being applicable for any colleges seeking recognition from the date of this decision.</p>
Agenda Item No.14	Foreign College Assessment Criteria to be approved
Discussion	Foreign colleges from where students have acquired MBBS/BDS degrees and seek licensing in Pakistan are required to be as per the PMC Act 2020 assessed, evaluated and recognized by the PMC. Those colleges recognized



	<p>would enable graduates to apply for licensing and sit the NLE for such purpose.</p> <p>Previously foreign colleges were not assessed and the only basis for accepting them was their name appearing in an address book circulated internationally. This address book does not validate the quality or standard or even recognition of such college by its own home country regulators. In addition to this a unique process called the diplomatic verification was introduced which was of no consequence as the Pakistan Embassy in any country only certifies that the signature on a document is that of the person appearing before them and no more. This resulted in a multitude of foreign colleges being marketed to students in Pakistan for obtaining cheap medical education without any verification of the quality of such education.</p> <p>Inquiries have resulted in grave reports which show foreign colleges which neither have requisite faculty or infrastructure and are admitting thousands of students per year whereas any quality medical college is generally limited to a few hundred students per year directly linked to size of the affiliated teaching hospital. In some cases colleges have been found which only teach basic sciences and then send students to some other country to allegedly do their clinical studies in institutes.</p> <p>It is to be noted that for foreign graduates whose colleges are not recognized have an alternative pathway to licensing in Pakistan by obtaining post graduate qualifications from a foreign institution recognized by PMC.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>The council approved following criteria for assessment of foreign colleges and those colleges from which graduates have already sought licensing in Pakistan to expedite their processes;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The college is recognized by the Education Regulatory Authority of the home country. 2. The college is recognized by the Medical Licensing Regulatory Authority of the home country. 3. The college offers a 5 year MBBS program of which a minimum of 3 year clinical program. 4. If dental college, offers a 4 year BDS program of which a minimum 2 years clinical program. 5. Affiliated Teaching Hospital is recognized by the Health Regulatory Authority of the home country as a teaching hospital. 6. Declaration as to number of students in the college in each program and per year. 7. Declaration as to particulars of affiliated teaching hospital as per proforma provided by PMC. 8. Number of graduates of the college licensed to practice in home country in the last 5 years. 9. Other non-medical programs conducted at the college. <p>The above criteria would require to be verified in terms of Item No.1 to 5 and Item 8 from the Government authorities of the relevant country and Items 6, 7 and 9 by the University to which the college is affiliated.</p>



	<p>In a second and later step the academic curriculum of colleges granted provisional recognition under the above first phase would be evaluated. A college which is evaluated and found compliant would be placed in the Green List whereas colleges which fail evaluation would be put in a Black List. Any colleges undergoing evaluation would be placed in a Grey List.</p> <p>These lists to be made public to assist students when seeking admission to foreign colleges or those already admitted to seek migration if they are interest in seeking licensing in Pakistan.</p>
Agenda Item No.15	College Ranking System to be discussed
Discussion	<p>In August-September 2019 all existing recognized colleges were assessed on Evaluation Criteria 2019. The main purpose of these baseline inspections was to carry out a uniform assessment of existing colleges on the same criteria so that the colleges would know their status and deficiencies if any.</p> <p>However, In future a ranking system is required to be holistic and include all aspects such as facilities, quality of faculty, number of students qualifying NLE, number of students acquiring post grad positions in Pakistan and abroad, quality of the teaching hospital etc.</p>
Decision	<p>The council decided that committee of the Council may be formed to develop a future ranking system for approval.</p> <p>Meanwhile, in order to finalize the 2019 National Inspection results, it requires resolution of pending objections which had at that time been received from some colleges with regards to their inspections. Notices to be sent to these colleges to be heard on their objections immediately. In addition any objections regarding mandatory conditions may not be considered for withholding results as these are baseline inspections.</p> <p>The 2019 National Inspections were headed by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Amir Bilal 2. Major General (Retd) Saleem Ahmed. <p>It was decided that the above mentioned members may be requested to act as the grievance committee and hear and resolve the objections prior to public display of the results.</p>
Agenda Item No.16	To engage HEC for inspections
Discussion	It was discussed that future inspections of colleges are required to be initiated in line with a uniform scheme to be devised to ensure constant



	<p>vigilance and verification of their standards. In addition colleges seeking recognition are to be inspected.</p> <p>For such inspection HEC is mandated under the law to carry the same directly and through the Universities in consultation with PMC and as per criteria and standards notified by PMC.</p> <p>Currently all inspections would be carried out under the 2019 Criteria as notified by the Council, until the Academic Board notifies an update criteria in the future.</p>
Decision	The President may engage immediately with HEC and discuss the matter with HEC for a transition of the regulatory roles to HEC in respect of recognition and inspections of colleges.
Agenda Item No.17	Policy on filling of vacant seats post 15th February
Discussion	<p>As per the current system of centralized admission for private colleges to be followed for the 2021 session, admissions will stand closed on 15th February 2021. At that time it is possible that some colleges will be left with vacant seats.</p> <p>In the past there has been immense pressure by colleges to allow them to fill these vacant seats and this results in admissions being delayed considerably. This demand has to be balanced with two issues; firstly any student being admitted must be strictly on merit and secondly the students must have the choice to reject a college and should not be forced to attend a college not of choice.</p>
Decision	<p>After closing of admissions on 15th February and after the completion of the 7 day period for depositing fee, a onetime 7 day window only for vacant seats be given. In this window only colleges with vacant seats will be displayed on the PMC admissions portal and a national merit list of all remaining students be displayed allowing students as per merit to select any vacant seats. Any seats which remain vacant after this window shall remain vacant.</p> <p>Neither can colleges admit students after closure of final admissions as students must be provided the maximum opportunity to undertake their studies and complete their curriculum and nor can colleges seek to admit students over and above their allocated seats on the pretext of vacant seats in past years.</p>
Agenda Item No.18	Approval of proposed fee structure of private colleges
Discussion	All private colleges have been issued a notice to submit their fee structure for the 2021 session for the entire 5 year program with all allied charges



	<p>detailed. These need to be reviewed and thereafter, publicly published for students to be aware of the maximum fee of each college.</p>
Decision	<p>A special Committee of the Council was formed to review and evaluate the fees.</p> <p>Following members were nominated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Tariq Khan 2. Dr Asif Loya 3. Dr Anees ur Rehman <p>The finalized and reviewed fee will be made public prior to the opening of the national admission for private colleges.</p> <p>Any college not submitting their proposed fee structure by 26th October 2020 shall have the previous applicable fee in 2020 made applicable for the next 2021 session.</p>
Agenda Item No.19	FATA Quota Seats and other Quotas
Discussion	<p>The Federal Government has a notified quota for FATA students in public colleges all over Pakistan. As per the new law FATA is part of the districts of KP therefore it is presumed that the students can directly apply on open merit for the public colleges in KP.</p> <p>Similarly there are other regional quotas settled by different Provincial Governments for selected districts and regions.</p> <p>It is required to be clarified that all such quotas made by governments for public colleges owned by such governments shall be implemented by the public colleges in accordance with directions of the respective governments as per the PMC Act 2020. The Commission has no direct involvement in approving or enforcing these quotas.</p>
Decision	<p>Provincial and Federal Governments to be informed that while they may establish any quota deemed appropriate for seats allocated to a public college under their jurisdiction, the only two requirements applicable to all such public quotas are;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Any student being admitted on such quota is to have qualified the national MDCAT in order to obtain a license post graduation; and b) No quota can cause the maximum seats allocated to a public college to be exceeded above the approved/ assigned number.



Agenda Item No.20	Transfer & Migration Policy
Discussion	Students in the past wishing to migrate to another college were required to obtain NOC from PMDC. Migration or transfer from one college to another is essentially the domain of the relevant universities and their rules for migration and transfer. The same is required to be clarified and that any student who transfers to another college a notification must be issued to PMC to update their records
Decision	The Council agreed that migration or transfer of students from one college to another should be dealt by the concerned universities under their relevant applicable rules with notification to PMC for record update as required under Section 19(3) of the PMC Act 2020.
Agenda Item No.21	Transfer of Students back to colleges which were derecognized by Ad Hoc Council of PM&DC
Discussion	The Council validated the recognition of colleges previously inspected by HEC and PMC in December 2019 and approved for admissions. The Ad Hoc Council of PM&DC in 2020 de recognized such colleges and ordered re inspection .However, the process of re-inspection was not completed. Meanwhile students of some of these colleges were shifted to other colleges.
Decision	It was decided that such students complete their studies in the current academic year where they are located and then be returned to the original colleges and the process be undertaken to ensure that students are located in the relevant colleges prior to the start of the next academic year.
Agenda Item No.22	Fee payment by colleges from which students have migrated.
Discussion	Numerous complaints have been received that during the last admission process number of students were upgraded from one college to another but the college from which they were upgraded and where they had paid the fee have not forwarded the fee to the upgraded college. As a result the upgraded colleges are refusing to let students sit in classes till they pay a fee again. This is resulting in extreme hardship for the students and is otherwise an illegal act as per the previous regulations which required the college to transfer the fee to the upgraded college.
Decision	The colleges and their affiliated universities be issued a notice that if such pending fees are not transferred within 15 days, the right of the college to seek admissions in the coming session will be suspended. Furthermore, all colleges to which students have been upgraded to be directed to allow students to sit and attend classes and take the final exams



	<p>and no student shall be asked to pay the fee again. The fee is to be recovered from the previous college and not the student.</p> <p>The universities be also directed to take necessary action in this respect to ensure no student is put to any inconvenience</p>
Agenda Item No.23	Termination of previous Director Finance, PM&DC
Discussion	<p>As per the law, contract of Mr. Wajid Ali Shah (ex Director Finance) with PM&DC came to an end when PMC was formed in 2019. He was hired by PMC under a temporary contract. When PMC was shut down in Feb 2020 his temporary contract ended. However, his earlier contract with PM&DC came back to life. The High Court on his petition also upheld this position that his contract is alive and he should be paid his salary.</p>
Decision	<p>The council decided that back salaries of Director Finance for the period he was not paid by PM&DC (after shutdown of PMC) may be paid upto date as part of the obligations under the PMC Act 2020 to clear all past dues. As to his continuation of contract, while he stood deemed transferred to PMC upon the passing of the PMC Act 2020, in view of the fact that position which now exists is of Member PMC, his contract with PM&DC no longer remains valid as the position for which he was hired by PM&DC does not exist.</p> <p>The contract and services of Director Finance stand terminated.</p>
Agenda Item No.24	Appointment of Head of Finance
Discussion	<p>It was discussed that finance department of PMC has been assigned several tasks which need supervision and monitoring for effective delivery of services.</p> <p>The Chair of the Finance Committee explained that in the interim a head of finance department was urgently required till the Member Finance can be appointed specially with important process of MDCAT and admissions coming up. The Chair of the HR Committee seconded that requirement.</p>
Decision	<p>Keeping in view the immediate requirement, the Council directed the Finance committee to propose a suitable candidate as the Head of Finance on temporary basis for the interim period till the appointment of Member finance.</p>



Agenda Item No.25	SAT II exemption for 2020-2021
Discussion	<p>For the current year the Council had agreed to grant an exemption for foreign students not currently in Pakistan from taking the MDCAT and instead use the SAT II results. This exemption can only be for the current year in view of the late promulgation of the law and the Covid-19 situation restricting travel.</p> <p>The requirement for SAT II results provides for results in Maths/Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English or alternative to English SAT I result to be used.</p> <p>In order to qualify for admissions , for SAT the weightage of subjects to be the same as that of MDCAT.</p> <p>In the MDCAT exam the weightage of subjects is as follows: Biology: 40 % Chemistry: 30 % Physics: 20 % English: 10 %</p>
Decision	<p>It was decided that in order to qualify for admission for the 2021 Session only, SAT II results can be used and a comparative merit level be given as MDCAT in terms of weightage of different subjects as follows;</p> <p>Biology: 40 % Chemistry: 35 % Physics: 25 %</p> <p>As due to Covid-19 SAT I has not been conducted English shall be exempted subject to the student having completed their HSSC/High School program from an institution/country where the medium of teaching is English.</p>
Agenda Item No.26	Fixation of Date for MDCAT
Discussion	<p>Pursuant to a complete process for holding of the MDCAT which includes the time requires for preparing the paper and printing it, preparing logistics for the examination centers, opening of application portal etc. PMC needs to fix date for the conduction of exam.</p> <p>In addition the fee for the MDCAT be fixed based on cost to be incurred by PMC for the holding of the exam. The costs cumulatively as finalized will be approximately Rs.1500 per student inclusive of taxes taking into consideration approximately 125,000 students sitting the exam.</p>
Decision	<p>It was decided that the MDCAT exam date be fixed for 15th November 2020 to be conducted simultaneously at all designed centers.</p> <p>The fee for the MDCAT exam is fixed at Rs.1,500 per student.</p>



Agenda Item No.27	NTS and NUMS Approval for MDCAT services acquisition
Discussion	<p>The Council decided that the Pakistan Medical Commission shall hold the national MDCAT on an urgent basis on 15th November 2020.</p> <p>In view of the fact that well over a 100,000 students would be applying to take the MDCAT examination all over Pakistan, the examination has to be held at over a 100 centers to be located in each province and also Gilgit Baltistan, AJ&K and ICT. It requires extensive logistical support to setup the necessary centers, train invigilators and structure security etc .Due to incumbent legislation and urgency involved, the response time required for national competitive bidding cannot be adhered to as the process has to be undertaken within a week to select the entity authorized to prepare the MDCAT paper and thereafter mark it as well as the entity to provide logistics in terms of setting up the examination centers across Pakistan for holding the MDCAT exam on 15th November 2020 .</p> <p>The change in law coming into effect on 24th September 2020 and subsequently the Council being appointed by the Federal Government on 30th September 2020 resulting in the first Council meeting to be held on 2nd October 2020 coupled with the mandatory obligation in the new law to hold a national MDCAT represents an extreme emergency brought about by unforeseen events. Any delay in holding the MDCAT exam would create severe unrest and concern amongst over a 100,000 students across Pakistan who are preparing and awaiting for admissions to medical colleges.</p> <p>The Council for purposes of preparation of examination paper and marking found that National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) Rawalpindi, a premier public sector Medical University entrusted with admission to some of the most prestigious medical colleges in Pakistan, was found to have already developed a question bank for preparation of an MDCAT exam based on a common syllabus using all syllabi used in different areas of Pakistan</p> <p>Moreover, the entity identified which has existing national level examination centers, staff and resources to setup and operate over a 100 locations across Pakistan, AJ&K, GB and ICT was National Testing Service (NTS). NTS not only has extensive experience in holding public examinations/testing for a multitude of public authorities and governments but also has experience of holding MDCAT exams in different provinces and is currently engaged by the Government of Sindh to provide logistic services for the holding of the Entry Test of the Sindh Government for Public Colleges in Sindh. Therefore, the entity has extensive and available experience and ability to provide the services on an immediate cost effective basis. NTS would only be providing the logistics for holding the exams in terms of; setting up exam centers with all facilities required for students to take the exam, distribution of papers and collection of papers to be sealed for sending back to NUMS, invigilators and security. NTS will have no visibility of the exam paper in advance or be involved in its preparation or marking.</p>



	<p>It was decided that Commission may proceed with a negotiated tender to award NUMS with the contract to prepare and mark the MDCAT paper and award to NTS a contract to provide logistic services for setting up over 100 examination centers across Pakistan.</p> <p>It was further discussed that while PPRA has been informed duly, it will subsequent to the completion of negotiated tendering review the process and provide its concurrence for purposes of future audits of the Commission.</p>
Decision	<p>The Council approved to acquire services from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NUMS -for preparation of paper and marking 2. NTS - for providing logistic services i.e. examination centers and the invigilators for the centers. 3. Transport services for secure movement of question papers shall be undertaken by PMC to ensure safety and security.
Agenda Item No.28	Students who have passed NEB Step 1 & 2 and awaiting Step 3
Discussion	<p>Numerous foreign students have qualified Step 1 and Step 2 of NEB and were awaiting Step 3 exam. Approximately 24 students are awaiting. While those students who have passed Step 3 are being issued Provisional Licenses immediately. It was discussed that subject to the college assessment the student has to qualify NLE in order to get registered. However the clinical skill exam should be NLE II for skills test should be mandatory for the students with graduation from a foreign college.</p>
Decision	<p>For foreign graduates taking NLE path to licensing, NLE Step I followed by a Step II representing assessment of clinical skills will be mandatory.</p> <p>Foreign graduates who have not qualified their Step 3 shall await the assessment and recognition of their foreign colleges prior to being admitted to take the NLE.</p>
Agenda Item No.29	Clarification on Agenda item no 32 of the first meeting of PMC Council
Discussion	<p>1000 Pak National students have graduated from Cuba on scholarship and approximately 800 have been issued permanent licenses. Cuban Institutes issue the degree only after completion of house job. Therefore these students having degree and house job certificate from Cuba were granted provisional license after qualifying NEB exam. For obtaining full license they were required to do one year attachment in any hospital.</p>



	The Council in its first meeting decided as under: <i>"Students who had already graduated prior to September 2020 and were hence already doing their house jobs shall not be required to take the NLE for grant of Full Licenses. However, all students who graduate from medical or dental colleges after September 2020 shall be required to take the NLE as per law anytime during or after completing of their house jobs in 2021 or thereafter."</i>
Decision	It was clarified that the above decision does not apply to the graduates from foreign institutes. The decision applies only to graduates from Pakistani colleges. Foreign graduates need to qualify NLE examination for grant of license as per law.
Agenda Item No.30	Minutes of the Paper Setting Committee for Approval
Discussion	The examination committee completed a National Conference with participation from provincial universities, IBCC and NUMS. Minute were placed before the Council and discussed as well as the confirmation from IBCC of the syllabus not exceeding any existing board curriculum.
Decision	The council approved the minutes. The committee has finalized common syllabus, the main objective of which was to standardize MDCAT ensuring no topic is outside the current syllabus of any board in Pakistan. Guidelines for students shall be uploaded on PMC website. Following details will be shared on website for ease of the students; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subject wise distribution of Questions 2. Table of Specifications 3. A Sample paper with few questions from each section
Agenda Item No.31	Review and approval of expenses incurred but not paid by the finance section
Discussion	Mr. Tariq Khan briefed council members that the finance department has forwarded a list of expenses incurred but not paid; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) During the previous PMC regime and b) By PM&DC prior to takeover by PMC. <p>These need to be reviewed and cleared as the liability is now that of the PMC.</p>
Decision	It was decided that the Finance Committee may review the complete details of all expenses. All expenses to be verified by the finance department. Payments may be made once verified. The final recommendations of the



	Finance Committee may be forwarded to council for approval prior to release of payments.
Agenda Item No.32	Case of colleges which have applied for increase in number of seats
Discussion	All existing Medical and Dental Colleges were inspected during Nationwide Inspections 2019. A few colleges which are already recognized and have been inspected during last inspections 2019 and scored A + marks have applied for increase in number of seats for the new academic year 2021.
Decision	<p>It was decided that the colleges that applied for increase in number of seats and had scored A+ grades in Nationwide inspections 2019 may be provisionally granted the request for increase in seats. However, the college will have to submit an undertaking that they currently fulfill all the requirements (as laid down in Accreditation Standards 2019) for increased number of seats.</p> <p>Provisional registration for increased number of seats may be granted to such colleges with the condition that the inspection will be conducted by HEC within 12 months to verify the same and at which time the HEC may proceed to issue final enhancement.</p> <p>If any college does not successfully receive final enhancement approval from HEC, students admitted on such additional seats shall be distributed to other colleges in consultation with HEC with first priority being where seats in the relevant year are vacant.</p>
Additional Agenda item A	Inspection of School of Dentistry, SZABMU Islamabad
Discussion	<p>School of Dentistry of SZABMU is a public sector institute which was inspected by PMC earlier in December 2019 but could not qualify due to some equipment having not arrived from abroad and due to which the inspection was pended. The college was at that time in the process of procuring equipment but procurement could not be completed before the inspections.</p> <p>The college has applied for reinspection in view of the equipment having since arrived and duly installed.</p>
Decision	Keeping in view that School of Dentistry of SZABMU is the first public sector Dental College in the area and the government has fulfilled the requisites for inspection, HEC may be requested to arrange reinspection of the college by the same inspection team which carried out the first inspection before the MDCAT exams i.e. 15 th November 2020 to determine the final status of the college for purposes of recognition



Additional Agenda item B	Ratio of working hours for the doctors/residents performing duties in hospitals
Discussion	<p>The Islamabad High Court in a pending matter has taken up the issue of ratio of working hours of residents in the hospitals. The Honourable Court had sought comments of the Commission.</p> <p>In order to make rational decision the Council needs to involve the stake holders also. The Council agreed upon constituting a committee which will decide the matter after engaging stakeholders.</p>
Decision	<p>A Committee was nominated by the Council to address the issue .The Committee will also involve the stakeholders in order to make rational decision regarding the subject matter of working hours of post graduate students .</p> <p>Following members were nominated for the said task;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Arshad Taqi 2. Ali Raza 3. Dr Asif Loya 4. Nominee of Surgeon General 5. Any other co-opted member
Additional Agenda item C	Criteria for Foreign students being admitted to colleges in Pakistan colleges.
Discussion	<p>Colleges in the past had quota for the Foreign Students and as per law the college had the liberty to charge separate fee from the Foreign students.</p> <p>In view of the previous regulations having been repealed it is important to classify a foreign student for purposes of seeking admissions and charging of fee. The fee structure may be decided by the college itself.</p> <p>The Criteria for classifying a student as a foreign student was discussed in detail. It was further discussed that for purposes of charging fee foreign students admitted should be classified in two difference categories to accommodate our ex patriates as against those who are foreign nationals.</p>
Decision	<p>After detailed discussion the Council decided that for admission in the 2021 session a student seeking admission in Pakistan shall be treated as "Foreign Student" if he /she falls in one of the following categories;</p>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A student who is a foreign national and does not hold Pakistani nationality and has obtained their HSSC, 12th grade examination or equivalent from outside Pakistan; 2. Any student who is a non-resident Pakistani or dual national including a dual national and seeks admission on basis of SAT II and having obtained their HSSC, 12th grade examination or equivalent from outside Pakistan <p>Fees to be charged to Foreign Students under Category 1 to be proposed by each college.</p> <p>Fees for Foreign Students under Category 2, referred to as Non Resident Students, to be also proposed by each college subject to being reasonably lower than the fee charged for Category 1 but may be higher than the fee charged to resident Pakistani students.</p> <p>Fee charged to foreign students maybe in foreign currency.</p>
Additional Agenda item D	Hiring of Director Admin and Manager Admin for the interim period
Discussion	<p>Keeping in view the administrative issues and the upcoming recruitment process, the HR Committee proposed two candidates for urgent appointment for two positions :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Director Admin- On a 60 day Contract from date of joining 2. Manager Admin-On a 90 day Contract. <p>The candidates recommended by the HR Committee were reviewed by the members and agreed to.</p>
Decision	<p>The Council approved the appointment of;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Hassan Imtiaz as Director Administration for a period of 60 days with effect from 1st November 2020 2. Mr.Humza Raza Rauf, as Manager Administration for a period of 90 days from 20th October 2020
Additional Agenda item E	Air Travel and Logistic Cost of Council Members and Academic Board Members
Discussion	<p>The Council members and the Academic Board Members would be required to travel for the official purpose such as attending meetings, therefore any such cost incurred may be reimbursed by the Commission as otherwise no member of the Council or the Board is paid any remuneration or allowance for attending meetings or travelling for work on behalf of the Commission.</p>



Decision	<p>The Council approved that any such cost of travel and accommodation of a member of the Council or member of the Academic Board incurred for purposes of attending a meeting of the Commission shall be reimbursed or borne by the Commission.</p> <p>The Finance Committee shall finalize the terms and conditions for the said purpose.</p>
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It was agreed that next meeting of the Council shall be held on 10th NOV , 2020.



Pakistan Medical Commission