



PAKISTAN MEDICAL COMMISSION

Minutes Tenth Council Meeting Tuesday, February 15th, 2022 Held at PMC, Islamabad

Present

1. Dr. Arshad Taqi, President
2. Mr. Muhammad Ali Raza, Vice President
3. Lt. General Nigar Johar, Surgeon General, Member
4. Dr. Rumina Hasan, Member
5. Dr. Asif Loya, Member
6. Dr. Anis Ur Rehman, Member
7. Ms. Roshaneh Zafar, Member
8. Mr. Tariq Ahmed Khan, Member
9. Dr. Shaista Zeeshan (Secretary to the Commission)

Meeting was chaired by the President and called to order.

The President welcomed all members of the Council and formally started the meeting by reviewing and sharing his comments on the commendable performance of the Council from the time of establishment of the Commission.

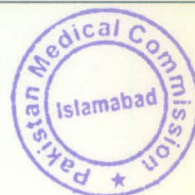
Item No. 1	Medical Documents from the National Medical & Dental Academic Board Presented to the Council for Consideration
Discussion	<p>The Council was apprised that the Accreditation standards for teaching hospitals and MBBS Curriculum were presented to the Council in its 9th meeting, held on 2nd October 2021. The Council decided to review the documents and a few changes were also suggested which were incorporated and the revised documents were again presented before the Council. Several informal meetings were also held between the Council members during this period to share their inputs.</p> <p>The Council was informed that the accreditation standards comprise of essential standards, quality standards and a few annotations. These standards serve as a guideline for teaching hospitals for Undergraduate Medical Education, post graduate training and house job training and will be referred to and used by them in order to maintain and comply to should the hospital wishes to be accredited in</p>



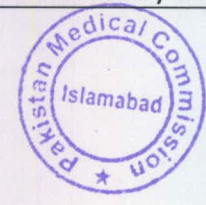
	<p>future. These standards will be used for inspection of the teaching hospitals for grant of recognition.</p> <p>The Council thoroughly discussed the changes incorporated into the documents and the impact of changes and unanimously approved the accreditation standards. However, it was decided that before making the documents public, these will be sent to the Authority for proper formatting so that all such documents may be published in a standardized format</p> <p>Moreover, for the Curriculum the Council discussed that the stakeholders may be engaged before the final document is approved for implementation and therefore the Authority may seek comments and suggestions from the colleges and universities which will ensure acceptability and ownership of recommended changes and better implementation.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>The Council recorded their appreciation and gratitude for the immense work done by the National Medical and Dental Academic Board in formulating the standards. The Council also approved the standards for medical and dental undergraduate colleges which were also formulated by the National Medical and Dental Academic Board. It was decided that the new standards shall be published by the Authority after proper formatting and made available to all colleges along with the new Accreditation & Registration Regulations which are in the process of finalization incorporating the new approved standards. It was decided that the standards will properly depict the three categories; Mandatory Eligibility Standards, Mandatory Essential Standards and the Quality Standards. It was also noted that a teaching hospital applying for inspection would be inspected if it fulfilled the Mandatory Eligibility Standards. Upon inspection it must fulfill all the Mandatory Essential Standards to qualify and be recognized. Scoring for purposes of grading the teaching hospital would be done on the basis of the Quality Standards and any Essential Standards exceeded. The Council directed to share the approved standards after due formatting with the Higher Education Commission which is required to ensure that the designated universities ensure compliance with the undergraduate college standards as well as inspect new applying colleges directly or through a designated public university in the relevant province.</p> <p>The Medical and Dental Council also reviewed the Undergraduate Medical and Dental Curriculums proposed by the National Medical and Dental Academic Board. The Council decided to place the proposed curriculums on the PMC website to obtain views of the stakeholders being the universities and colleges, whereafter the final curriculums will be formulated and approved.</p>



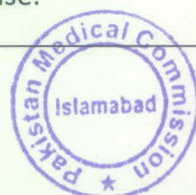
Action Required	The decision of the Council to be communicated to the Authority for implementation.
Compliance by	Council Secretary Office Education Division
Item No. 2	Dental Documents from the National Medical & Dental Academic Board Presented to the Council for Consideration via Circulation
Discussion	<p>Dr. Anis commended the efforts of the National Medical & Dental Academic Board for their work to draft the Accreditation Standards 2021 for Dental Colleges for Undergraduate Dental Education and the Guidelines for Undergraduate Dental Education (BDS) Curriculum. He shared that in the Curriculum; certain subjects have been added with assigned weightages. Some noteworthy subjects including Forensic Dentistry, Pediatric Dentistry have been given more weightage and subjects like Behavioral Sciences have been added for the first time.</p> <p>The Council was apprised that the document serves as only a guideline for the Undergraduate colleges and not to be taken as a recommended syllabus for the colleges. The breakup of hours is only suggested and not to be taken as a final recommended document.</p> <p>A question was raised in terms of the Forensic Dentistry that should this be included in the Undergraduate curriculum knowing that Forensic medicine is a specialty. Dr. Anis clarified to the members that in the first year, Dental Biology and Dental Morphology are taught and the fundamentals of Forensics is already laid out there where students are taught the basics and in the final year of Dental Curriculum, a few hours of this have been added now. This will give some basic knowledge to the students on how to examine shape of teeth and the tissues after accident.</p> <p>He further shared that many Dental graduates are employed by the colleges therefore an advisory needs to be issued for the Government's health ministry to increase the number of dental units in RHUs and DHQs so the people in rural areas also have access to dental treatment and the dental graduates will also have better job opportunities.</p> <p>A further issue was raised by the Vice President that in view of the reducing response of students to obtain admission in dental colleges it would be important to consider ways to structure the accreditation standards with a view to reducing the operating costs of dental colleges allowing them to maintain viability albeit even at a lower strength of students. Currently almost all dental colleges are</p>



	<p>effectively an entity which operates a medical college as well. Only a handful of stand-alone dental colleges exist. Every dental college requires a teaching hospital to be able to teach a large part of the curriculum and the teaching hospital in most cases is shared with the medical college. The previous standards required that a dental college must have an exclusive and separate building as well as an independent teaching hospital and an independent faculty for basic sciences. This places an increased cost both in terms of capital and operational on a college. In real terms a dental college requires a very specific number of additional facilities to what is already available in a medical college and its associated teaching hospital. Therefore, if dental colleges were not mandatorily required to maintain an independent existence and were instead allowed as a Dental Section of a Medical College it would be more cost effective for dental colleges to operate and furthermore reduce other regulatory costs such as full scale inspections of the medical and dental colleges separately. It would be a matter of each colleges choice whether to have a Dental Section operation as an integrated part of the Medical College or operate it as a stand-alone college. The option would be provided under the relevant accreditation regulations.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>Council appreciated Dr. Anis for the detailed briefing on Dental Accreditation standards.</p> <p>The Council approved the following documents and forwarded the same to the Authority for proper formatting before dissemination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Accreditation Standards 2021 for Dental Colleges for Undergraduate Dental Education 2. The Accreditation Standards 2021 for Dental Clinical Teaching Facilities/Dental Teaching Hospital for Undergraduate Dental Education 3. The Accreditation Standards 2021 for Dental Clinical Teaching Facilities/Dental Teaching Hospitals for House Job 4. The Accreditation Standards 2021 for Dental Clinical Teaching Facilities/Dental Teaching Hospital for Postgraduate Dental Education <p>It was discussed that for the above mentioned standards and for the Guidelines for Undergraduate Dental Education (BDS) Curriculum the Authority must proceed in same manner as decided earlier for the Medical accreditation standards.</p> <p>It was further agreed that the option of operating a Dental Section integrated as a part of a Medical College be allowed and the necessary criteria be included</p>



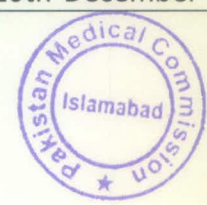
	in the accreditation regulations to enable existing dental colleges to undertake the amalgamation.
Action Required	<p>The Council Secretariat to forward the documents to the Authority for proper formatting. Once done, the documents need to be shared with the colleges and other stakeholders.</p> <p>A separate session to discuss the outcomes of Dentistry, the job prospects for dental graduates, counseling and licensing pathways for Dental Graduates to be held that would further help in issuing advisory for the concerned ministry.</p> <p>Dr. Anis ur Rehman, Member Council to work with the Authority for the above.</p>
Compliance by	Education Division
Item No. 3	Minimum Standards for Faculty in Undergraduate Medical & Dental Colleges of Pakistan 2022
Discussion	<p>The National Medical & Dental Academic Board in its 37th meeting held on Friday 11th February 2022 approved the “Minimum Standards for Faculty In Undergraduate Medical & Dental Colleges of Pakistan 2022” and same were presented to the Council for review.</p> <p>The Council members had a detailed discussion on the document. Amendments suggested by the Council members in the circulated document were agreed upon. The Chair apprised that the document clearly stated that HEC rules apply for induction of non-clinical faculty, however, for clinical faculty, the concerned university’s criteria apply. Council was informed that a meeting was also held with the HEC to discuss the faculty criteria and HEC duly agreed to the proposal. The same has been stated in the PMC Act 2020 Sec 19(5) which states:</p> <p><i>“The standard and structure of faculty shall be regulated as prescribed by either the Higher Education Commission or the university to which a college (is affiliated or any other law applicable to a public teaching institution subject to the minimum standards determined by the Board”.</i></p> <p>The Council further discussed that the document should not be prescriptive and should entail minimum standards for induction of the faculty. Requisite of Non-clinical qualification has been stated in the document for the faculty induction only and not for the grant of license.</p>



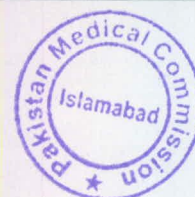
	HEC recognizes the non-clinical qualifications hence will endorse the same for the faculty appointments, however clinical qualifications recognized by PMC will be available with PMC in the licensee's record.
Decision	The Council directed to incorporate proposed changes in the document. The universities may set higher standards for clinical faculty keeping the minimum approved standards as a baseline. Moreover, it was decided that a letter needs to be written to HEC to confirm whether any additional criteria for basic science faculty shall be prescribed by HEC or shall be that as may be prescribed by each University. Furthermore, such standards being implemented by colleges shall be consistently inspected by the HEC nominated single university in each province.
Action Required	The approved changes to be incorporated in the document. Member Education and Evaluation to draft a letter for HEC in light of the Councils decision.
Compliance by	Education Division
Item No. 4	Annual Audit Report 2020-2021
Discussion	<p>The financial statements of PMC, which comprised of the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2021, the statement of Income and Expenditure, comprehensive income, changes in funds and the statement of cash flows for the year were earlier forwarded to the Council via Circulation for review. The same documents were presented before the Council in its meeting for discussion and approval.</p> <p>Mr. Tariq Ahmed Khan, the member and chair of Finance Committee, briefed the Council members that in the past, all operations were based on basic Accounting and single entry bookkeeping. No system was in place to prepare Accounts in time. That's why 3year Accounts audit was done in one go. With the proper digitization and ERP in place, the process will further be streamlined.</p> <p>The Committee was informed in detail about the fixed assets and scholarship fund. The fixed asset register maintained by the Commission is not in accordance with the requirements of TR-6 as required by the Institute of Chartered Accountant of Pakistan. Therefore, in the absence of complete fixed assets listing, the value of fixed assets was not verified. For the purpose, a third party consultant was also hired to chalk down the fixed assets for the financial report. He further</p>



	shared that the audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Pakistan.
Decision	The Council after detailed discussion and thorough analysis of the documents, approved the presented documents including the audit report 2020 – 2021.
Action Required	Secretary Office to communicate the approval of the Council to the Finance Division for further necessary action.
Compliance by	Secretary office Finance Division
Item No. 5	Matter of exam retake and the proceedings of Ombudsman Office
Discussion	<p>Member Legal was invited to brief the Council Members on legal agenda of Mr. Khalid Imtiaz. She gave initial background that the complainant Mr. Khalid Imtiaz filed a complaint before the Federal Ombudsman vide complaint no. WMS-HQR/0001002/21 seeking direction from PMC to give permission to retake exam after thirty five years and having availed more than four chances to sit in exams.</p> <p>The Council was informed that the Ombudsman disposed off the matter vide findings dated 23-08-2021 with the following directions:</p> <p><i>“since this matter relates to policy regarding academic matters, the case is referred to Pakistan Medical Commission to reconsider the matter in the light of facts stated above and redress the grievance of the complainant as per Agency’s legal framework and policy under intimation to this office”.</i></p> <p>A hearing opportunity was provided to Mr. Khalid Imtiaz and a detailed decision was given in the matter on 26-10-2021 by the Member Legal. Moreover, upon a query raised by advisor to the Ombudsman; it was explained that decision has been made in accordance with the applicable policy and law and the Supreme Court’s Judgment. A copy of Supreme Court judgment was also provided. Thereafter, an email dated 23-11-2021 and a hearing notice dated 03-12-2021 was issued from Ombudsman office, wherein Member Legal was called ‘in person’ for hearing schedule on 10th December, 2021.</p> <p>In response to the above notice, a written report was submitted wherein it was explained that DC hearings are scheduled for 10th December 2021, therefore,</p>



	<p>Member Legal will not be available for hearing. However, on the date of hearing i.e. 10th December 2021, officer deputed from legal was not allowed to mark attendance and was communicated that till Member Legal will not appear in person no hearing proceedings will be conducted as per direction of the Advisor (Implementation).</p> <p>Council was further apprised that findings of the Ombudsman dated 23-08-2021 to decide the matter as per Agency's legal framework and policy have been complied and decision has been given. Member legal is functus officio after giving decision in the matter therefore, she does not have the authority to review or alter the decision.</p> <p>After detailed information shared by the Member Legal, the Council perused the matter in detail and shared their inputs. It was discussed that advice from external legal counsel may be sought regarding the legality of such directions and proceedings and to proceed further accordingly.</p>
Decision	It was decided that external advice may be sought from the external legal counsel with regards to the legality of such directions and proceedings and legal division to proceed further accordingly.
Action Required	The matter to be sent to the external legal counsel for an advice.
Compliance by	Legal Division
Item No.6	Regulatory Issues of ISRA University and its Four Constituent Colleges
	<p>Member Legal briefed the Council Members about the case of ISRA University and its four constituent colleges in detail.</p> <p>Council was informed that PMC is facing serious regulatory issues with ISRA University and its four constituent colleges which are recognized and registered with the PMC ; (1) Faculty of Medicine & Allied Medical Sciences Hyderabad, (2) ISRA Dental College Hyderabad, (3) Al- Nafees Medical College Islamabad; and(4) Al-Tibri Medical College Karachi. Also, PMC has been receiving different complaints and public information pertaining to internal management disputes among the Isra University, Isra Islamic Foundation and its four constituent colleges.</p> <p>Council was apprised that last year, an initial inquiry was conducted to ascertain facts as to issues pertaining to the Isra University and the colleges in order to protect the interest of the students enrolled at the four colleges and to ensure</p>



the operations of the colleges continue in the interim in a manner so as to be not adversely affected by the currently sub judice disputes before the court as to the management of the Isra University and the Isra Islamic Foundation.

It was categorically communicated by PMC that “in the event the ongoing dispute pertaining to the management and operations of the University and the Foundation are not resolved by 30th June 2021 and a certification issued by the Higher Education Commission that the University is operating strictly in accordance with its charter and the rules of the HEC, each of the Colleges shall be required to seek affiliation with a recognized public medical university in the relevant province/ region in order to maintain their recognition with the Commission”.

However, instead of resolving their issues, the university and the colleges started blaming each other and bringing up their internal management disputes to the regulator, HEC and SECP.

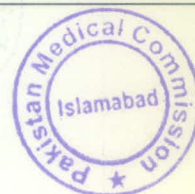
Council was informed it is evident from the prevailing issues that the university has no control over at least two of its constituent colleges. Al-Tibri Medical College Karachi and Al Nafees Medical College Islamabad are not allowing any of the team from university to monitor the campus and colleges and their teaching hospitals of its day to day running affairs. Neither are they providing updates of periodic assessments of departments and hospital, Faculty requirement, its development and progress of students and academic record.

The Council discussed that the regulator does not interfere into the organizational matters of its recognized entities or affairs of the university, however issues of Isra’s constituent colleges pertain to non-compliance of regulatory requirements under the PMC Act 2020 and regulations and have repercussions on the future of students who are suffering due to mismanagement and internal conflicts of office bearers of the university, foundation and the colleges.

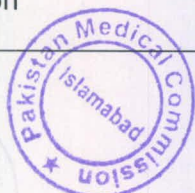
Main issues identified of the ISRA University and four colleges were:

- Delay in providing credentials of students for Registration of Students for grant of Provisional License
- Delay in Registration of Students for Admission Session 2020-21
- Faculty Issues
- Delay in Awarding Degrees
- Delay in Examination
- Deployment of Armed Personnel at Campuses

Council was further informed that several hearings were also held by PMC to address the issues of the University and the colleges that provided all the relevant parties an opportunity to resolve the dispute amicably. The hearing was attended by the concerned parties. After detailed discussion, an undertaking was signed by



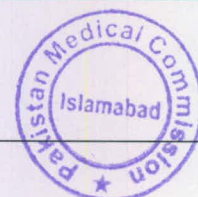
	<p>Mr.Ahmed Walliulah Qazi and Mr. Abdul Qadir Memon, representatives of the University and the constituent colleges and submitted to the Commission. University and its constituent colleges submitted to strictly adhere to regulatory requirements and resolve their internal management disputes.</p> <p>It was discussed that Isra university has four constituent colleges recognized and registered with the PMC which have 350 seats for medical and 50 seats for dental programs. This constitutes a substantial number of students who are currently enrolled in these four colleges and the future of these aspirants and the graduating students is at stake due to the internal conflicts of the university, foundation and the colleges. Further, deployment of armed personnel at the campuses has created an uncertain and threatened environment for the students and the parents.</p> <p>For almost one year, Isra university and its constituent colleges have been consistently engaged to resolve their internal conflicts and ensure compliance of regulatory requirements under the PMC Act, regulation and directions issued thereunder. Interference by the Sindh High Court was also sought by PMC in this regard. Despite all efforts made by PMC, the issues of Isra University and its constituent colleges remain unresolved placing at grave risk the future of the students who are enrolled at these four colleges.</p> <p>It was discussed that the non-compliant behavior of these registered/recognized colleges towards the laws and the directions of the regulator and mismanagement and lack of control of the university over its constituent colleges is matter of grave concern for PMC as it puts the students at risk who are enrolled in these colleges.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>The Council decided that a notice to be issued to ISRA University's four constituent colleges with the directions to seek register/affiliate with any other recognized public university in their territorial jurisdiction in terms of section 19 of the Act. Also submit a report to the authority of filing such application within 14 days of the issuance of the directions of the Council.</p> <p>In the event any of the colleges fail to do so, a show cause notice be issued as to why the registration should not be cancelled in view of their failure to comply with the Council's direction to seek affiliation with other public medical university. The same communication will also be sent to HEC for record.</p>
<p>Action Required</p>	<p>Member Legal to issue a notice in light of the decision of the Council.</p>
<p>Compliance by</p>	<p>Legal Division</p>



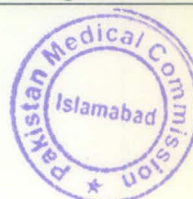
Item No.7	Formal Approval of Policy Decisions which were taken from time to time via circulation	
	<p>The council takes various decisions through circulation keeping in view the urgency of the matter and time constraints. Formal approval was sought for all such decisions (as follows) which the council has already considered in the past:</p>	
	S. No.	Subject / Topic
1.	Resolution by circulation - Opening of Bank Accounts	5 th Oct 2021
2.	PMC Salary / Grading Structure Revision	29 th Oct 2021
3.	Award Ceremony for MDCAT and NLE National and Provincial toppers 2021	29 th Oct 2021
4.	Scholarship Fund and Trust Regulations	31 st Oct 2021
5.	Enhancement of 36 seats in public sector medical colleges for students from Baluchistan and Ex-FATA	1 st Nov 2021
6.	Dental NLE and NEB Syllabi & Dental Undergraduate Curricular Guidelines recommended by Academic Board	8 th Nov 2021
7.	Amendment in the assessment criteria for foreign medical and dental colleges	9 th Nov 2021
8.	NLE Step-2 2021 results -For review and opinion	11 th Nov 2021
9.	Approval of Council for Appointment of DC Member on Interim Basis for Pending DC Hearings	12 th Nov 2021
10.	Report on CGH Scheme - submitted by Re-organization & Rationalization Board	13 th Nov 2021
11.	Termination of JV with TEPS	15 th Nov 2021
12.	Appointment of Member Licensing	22 nd Nov 2021
13.	PMC Organograms - Nov 2021	29 th Nov 2021
14.	Inspections Fee & TA/DA for Inspections	9 th Dec 2021
15.	Approval through circulation for Panel of Lawyers - Expression of Interest for Appointment of External Counsels of PMC	15 th Dec 2021
16.	Report of 18 UG Inspections Conducted by Authority in Nov-Dec 2021	21 st Dec 2021
17.	TA DA Policy for PMC Employees	22 nd Dec 2021
18.	Draft Amendment to PMC Service Regulations 2020 - Hiring of Consultants / Subject Specialists	27 th Dec 2021



19.	Special policy for NEB qualifying students for 1st year admissions only	28 th Dec 2021
20.	Review of Council's Decision to Conduct Special Exams of three Medical Colleges in Baluchistan	30 th Dec 2021
21.	Documents recommended by the Academic Board for Council Review and Consideration	31 st Dec 2021
22.	Inspection report of 27 Postgraduate teaching hospitals - Dec 2021	31 st Dec 2021
23.	Proposed amendment in PMC Service Regulation 8 (3) ii & iii	4 th Jan 2022
24.	Inspection report of 2 Undergraduate institutes	10 th Jan 2022
25.	Recommendations of the DIPD Committee on tender for procurement of Examination Systems	10 th Jan 2022
26.	Recommendations of Disciplinary Committee- SCN issued to Dr. Muneeb Nisar	14 th Jan 2022
27.	MDCAT, NLE & NEB Proposed Schedule – 2022	14 th Jan 2022
28.	Inspection report of Bahawalpur Medical & Dental College	17 th Jan 2022
29.	Specialized task for conduct of examination	19 th Jan 2022
30.	Issuance of Show cause notice to Mr. Tahir Qazi	19 th Jan 2022
31.	Dental Colleges Interim Policy	28 th Jan 2022
32.	Request for suspension of recognition of Bahawalpur Medical & Dental College	31 st Jan 2022
33.	Consideration of - Brief on the enquiry proceedings of Dr. Qazi Tahir Uddin	31 st Jan 2022
34.	Amendments to SOPs for Litigation	8 th Feb 2022
35.	Hearing report of Bahawalpur Medical & Dental College	11 th Feb 2022
36.	Draft Order in the matter of inquiry against Dr. Tahir Qazi under section 15(7) of the PMC Act 2020	14 th Feb 2022



Decision	The Council formally approved the Policy Decisions which were taken from time to time via circulation.
Action Required	All decisions to be kept in councils record for future reference.
Compliance by	Council Secretary Office
Item No. 8	Matter of the registration/regularization of students already enrolled in three newly recognized Medical Colleges of Balochistan
Discussion	<p>Decision taken by the Council in its 7th Council Meeting with regards to 3 medical colleges in Balochistan namely; Loralai Medical College, Jhalawan Medical College and Mekran Medical College, whereby the colleges and their students were facilitated by nominating a university to conduct special exams for assessment of the students enrolled in these colleges prior to recognition was reviewed and the Council decided to withdraw the concession granted for regularization of the earlier illegally inducted students by way of taking a prof exam.</p> <p>Decision was reviewed in light of the order of the Balochistan High Court to suspend the directions of the Council to conduct special exam of the students of the three medical colleges of Balochistan. Decision of the council was communicated to the concerned quarters vide PMC letter dated 13th January 2022.</p> <p>In response to PMC decision, Chief Secretary Balochistan proposed a meeting to discuss the issues being faced by the Balochistan Government and concerns raised by the students.</p> <p>A delegation from Balochistan including the Chief Secretary, Secretary Health Balochistan and Principals of the three newly recognized medical colleges attended the Council Meeting and gave a detailed briefing on the issues raised by the students who had been irregularly inducted in the three colleges.</p> <p>Council was apprised that order of the Balochistan High Court to suspend the directions of the Council to conduct special exam of the students of the three medical colleges was passed without considering the facts which distinguished both cases i.e. Khairpur Medical College in Sindh and three medical Colleges in Balochistan. In case of Balochistan Medical Colleges, PMDC conducted zero inspection in December, 2018 and based on deficiencies as shown in the reports the Council directed the college(s) to not admit any student. Moreover, Balochistan University being the affiliating university does not have</p>



	<p>any medical faculty which is again a major concern.</p> <p>It was further discussed that the rationale behind the special exam proposed was to assess the students before regularization of such students who have studied in colleges which lacked infrastructure, proper medical faculty and were not even affiliated with a medical university. Further, the colleges went ahead to carry out admissions despite clear directions of PMDC on different occasions, not to admit students till they are recognized. Moreover, the members were apprised that the Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan in PLD 2007 SC 323 has categorically held that no medical institution can train or grant medical qualification unless accorded recognition. However, special exam was an exception to the general pathways for the students of these three medical colleges of Balochistan, which they have denied through these petitions before the court.</p>
Decision	<p>Keeping in view the significance of the matter, it was agreed that the Council and Chief Secretary Balochistan shall schedule a follow up meeting in next 15 days to consider the issue in detail. It is to ensure that the issues of the medical aspirants of Balochistan are well represented and no factor of merit and transparency is being violated in the best interest of the students.</p> <p>It was decided that a follow up meeting will be conducted at PMC with the Chief Secretary Balochistan to discuss the matter considering all aspects of PMC regulations as well as the situation of Balochistan.</p>
Action Required	Secretary PMC to schedule the next meeting after confirming availability of the relevant stakeholders.
Compliance by	Council Secretariat Office
Item No. 9	Council's Progress Report Sep 20 – Feb 22
Discussion	<p>Progress report starring significant achievements of the Commission for the period from September 2020 – February 2022 was presented to the Council. The report entailed highlights of the various targets accomplished by the subcommittees of the Council including framing of several regulations. The Chair acknowledged the efforts and significant contribution of the worthy Council members to achieve the desired goals.</p> <p>The Chair further shared that there was a noticeable resistance from several stakeholders during various steps taken by the Commission. However, it has been observed that with time people have started to accept the role of PMC as a</p>



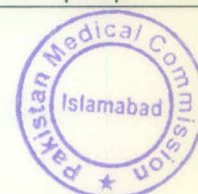
regulator and appreciate the positive impact of the implementation of new policies. He also shared some statistics with regards to the NLE step 1 and step 2 and apprised the Council that the pass percentage for foreign graduates still remains low. He further briefed the Council members regarding college grading of Kyrgyzstan.

The progress report highlighted important regulatory and policy decisions taken from time to time since PMC was officially constituted on 25 September 2020.

The chair shared that as per law, the house jobs offered in Pakistan are no longer honorary which means that seats for paid house jobs are going to be limited. Dr. Anis inquired from the Secretary about the steps taken to resolve various complaints received from the stakeholders in the last one year. She briefed the Council that initially PMC did receive numerous complaints and reservations on every step being taken. However, PMC stood firm on the decisions taken from time to time and did not change its stance and now there is a visible change in public perception about PMC. Lengthy and tedious licensing procedure has been replaced by online licensing system which facilitates the doctors in getting their desired services within defined timelines. There is acceptability among the stakeholders with regards to the various policies being introduced as they have developed the understanding that the change in policies is for their own benefit and for the benefit of the public at large. She also mentioned that Khuli Katchehry is one of the forums mandated by the Government where a lot of queries are now being answered by the President and the relevant officers from different divisions. Khuli Katchehry has been conducted twice a month where PMC authority answers live questions from the students, parents and general population. In addition, PMC has now launched an online Complaint Management System where complaints are addressed in real time. The officers designated to address customer complaints also regularly check and assist complaints received from Prime Minister's Citizen Portal. There is noticeable positive feedback from the people applying for license through the online license portal that assures a candidate gets his/her license issued or renewed in given time.

The Chair further discussed that moving forward, the authority needs to work on MDCAT question bank based on the given syllabus. The Council agreed that the MDCAT aspirants may be informed to continue their preparation as per the syllabus available online. The National Medical Authority to be directed to develop the question bank and get it thoroughly reviewed before the conduct of exam. The observations regarding conduct of NLE in Multan was also discussed among the Council members.

Member of the Disciplinary Committee gave a briefing on the hearings that were conducted by the Committee on various matters such as malpractice. Some licenses have been suspended based on the investigations that were done by the DC. Such steps will ensure that in the longer run people will know that the



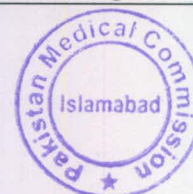
	<p>regulatory body ensures public health is a priority and there will be consequences of malpractice and negligence at the doctor's end. For information purposes and to ensure transparency, all decisions taken by the DC are also made public on PMC website.</p> <p>The Chair appreciated the Council's undying efforts to ensure the quality of health care system in Pakistan and to set out rules and standards for healthcare education and practices. He also acknowledged contribution of all members towards achieving several milestones despite crucial timelines and their commitment towards bringing in the best healthcare system for which Pakistan Medical Commission, as a whole, is indebted.</p>
Decision	<p>The Council appreciated the efforts of Council Secretariat Office for putting together a comprehensive yet concise report highlighting important steps taken by the Council.</p> <p>It was decided that the report will be updated regularly and type of the legal complaints /disciplinary cases addressed by the commission shall also be highlighted to ensure that a comprehensive document is prepared which can be referred to in the future.</p>
Action Required	<p>The Secretary to share detailed analysis of the NLE 1 & 2 with the Council members.</p> <p>Legal office to compile a list / report of the complaints coming in of malpractices that are taken to the Disciplinary Committee for hearings and share the same with the Council.</p> <p>A public notice to be issued to announce the online complaint management system for information of general public.</p>
Compliance by	<p>Council Secretary Office</p> <p>Legal Division</p>
Additional Agenda-Item No. A	Conduct of MDCAT, NLE and NEB Examinations by National Medical Authority
Discussion	<p>The Council was briefed that pursuant to sections 18, 20 & 21 of Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) Act, 2020, the Authority shall conduct MDCAT once a year and National Licensing Examination (NLE) and National Equivalence Board</p>



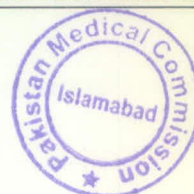
	<p>Examination (NEB) Examinations at least twice a year. The MDCAT, NLE and NEB examinations will be conducted by PMC regularly.</p> <p>It was discussed that Tender Notice issued for procurement of computer based Examination Services including Operational system for conduct of aforementioned exams was scrapped due to technical reasons with the approval of the Council. Moreover, the exams scheduled for the year of 2022 have already been approved by the Council. The Council was apprised in light of the approved schedule, the dates for NLE step-1 Medical & Dental Exam (Computer-Based Theoretical component) from 25th to 30th March 2022 have been announced and the registration have been received.</p> <p>Keeping in view the criticality of managing examination in house following the approved Examination calendar, it was suggested that for the upcoming NLE 1 Medical and Dental for March 2022, Network equipment (Switches, Firewalls, Access Points), Exam Servers may be arranged on urgent basis and process of integration & deployment to be managed inhouse by PMC IT team across all planned Exam Centers.</p> <p>It was further discussed that the procurement of the requisite equipment and network services would require lead time that would not allow the overall readiness of the Exam as per the schedule. Moreover, Booking of Exam Venue, Hiring of infrastructure & manpower (exam staff, invigilators, security personnel) of services required for conduct of the said examination shall also entail a time consuming tender process.</p> <p>Aforementioned in view and to ensure timely conduct of the scheduled exam, the Council agreed that "Emergency procedure" as per PPRA rules 42C (ii) & (iii) to may be adopted to complete the necessary procurement of equipment and services for the upcoming exams.</p> <p>The members further discussed that a new tender will take 30-45 days to be completed and therefore it would not be possible to conduct the exams as per the approved and announced schedule therefore direct contracting as an emergency procedure will be practical solution in such a short duration.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>Considering the urgency of the matter and to ensure timely conduct of the scheduled exam, the Council directed the Authority to adopt "Emergency procedure" as per PPRA rules 42C (ii) & (iii) to complete the necessary procurement of equipment and all services required for the upcoming exams.</p> <p>The Council further decided that the NLE, NEB and MDCAT examinations shall be conducted by the Authority through a system to be developed by the Authority inhouse. Authority was further directed to do all necessary preparations as</p>



	needed to conduct the exams from March onwards as per schedule and to ensure the smooth flow of operations.
Action Required	The Secretary to officially communicate the Council's decision to the Authority.
Compliance by	Council Secretary Office
Additional Agenda-Item No. B	Temporary License for Foreign Doctors who are practicing in Pakistan without PG Qualification
Discussion	<p>The Council was briefed that in Pakistan, there are many foreign doctors practicing on the basis of temporary license issued by the Commission. Temporary license allows a foreign doctor to practice in approved hospital training programs as an intern, resident or fellow. A foreign qualified doctor may also apply for temporary license to impart clinical training to medical students and to perform clinical procedures in case of healthcare emergency for limited time period. Temporary licensure is granted on a case-by-case basis and depends upon foreign doctor's education and training, experience and licensure status in his parent country, and also upon the intended use of the temporary license in respective country.</p> <p>Member Licensing shared that on PMC Online Portal, the applicant can apply for one of the following 3 categories of temporary licenses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For "undertaking training" (foreign graduates upon getting inducted in a PG program can apply for temporary license and sponsor letter from training institute is required). 2. For "imparting training" (The applicant must hold PG qualification and sponsor letter from employer is required). 3. For "temporary practice privileges" (The applicant must hold PG qualification and sponsor letter from the employer is required) This license is issued for 3 months. <p>The members conversed that there are a few foreign doctors who are providing services since many years. These doctors have been working on the basis of temporary license issued by PM&DC which they got renewed on yearly basis. However, these doctors do not possess any PG Qualification and hence do not fulfill the criteria as mentioned in the above-mentioned categories for the grant of temporary license. Two such cases were also brought to the Council's notice</p>



	<p>who have been providing services in Pakistan for more than 15 years and they get their license renewed each year for the said purpose.</p> <p>It was discussed that the temporary license being issued needs to be restricted to allow a foreign doctor to serve only in specific distinctive area he/she practices. For granting a temporary license the boundaries and parameters need to be defined and therefore the scope of work may be restricted in line with the sponsor letter issued by the employer</p>
Decision	<p>The Council decided that for the foreign doctors not holding a post graduate qualification but who are serving in Pakistan for more than 10 years in renowned institutes may be issued temporary license upon provision of sponsor letter from the employer. The license shall be issued for the provision of services in the sponsoring institute in specified field only.</p> <p>Moreover, it was decided that if a training hospital inducts foreign doctors for a certain period to undertake/impart training, the hospital shall be required to have an existing structured training program which can either be a CPSP program, or a PMC recognized CME or CPD Program. The institute shall provide the evidence of induction of the foreign doctor for the training program based on which temporary license shall be issued for the duration of the training. The foreign doctor, upon completion of the training or CPSP program, shall go back to their country.</p>
Action Required	Member Licensing to draft the standards and rules of getting the temporary license for the above-mentioned cases. The same needs to be made public for information.
Compliance by	Licensing Division
Additional Agenda-Item No. C	Special Policy for Admission on Vacant Seats for the Session 2021-2022
Discussion	<p>Vacant seats policy drafted by the Education Division was placed before the Council for consideration. The policy stated explicitly that the colleges both in private and public sector had to strictly follow the statutory timelines for admissions and submit the list of admitted students to PMC on the respective dates as already given to them. As per the procedure, on the deadline date the submitted admitted lists of students are locked in and cannot be edited. It was proposed that after assessment of admission lists submitted by each college and</p>



	<p>reconciling any complaints by students, admissions on vacant seats shall be carried out by the Authority.</p> <p>The Council was briefed by the Secretary that the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) through its Medical and Dental Undergraduate Education (Admission, Curriculum, and Conduct) Regulations 2021 had last year informed the public and private medical and dental colleges regarding the admission process, timelines and procedures for the conduct of admissions for the session 2021-2022. As per the regulations, both private and public sector colleges had to strictly follow the statutory timelines for admissions and upload the list of admitted students on the PMC portal, as per the published and announced schedule. The colleges were repeatedly informed, reminded and updated regarding the approaching timelines which were directly notified and publicly announced to ensure that compliance could be ensured by the closure of the admission process.</p> <p>Despite PMC's numerous efforts to warrant that colleges follow the prescribed timelines to ensure students are properly facilitated; a total of 1,936 (52.6%) seats remained vacant till the announced admission deadline due to noncompliance by mainly the public universities of the admission deadlines. Moreover, the Council was apprised that the Authority held a meeting with medical and dental colleges on 14th February 2022 to discuss the issue of vacant seats.</p> <p>It was also brought to Council's notice that under the Policy, those colleges, which are mostly public universities, who have failed to upload their admitted lists have been given time till 18th February to upload their corrected lists subject to students already admitted in any other private college as per uploaded lists shall not be shifted to a public college without the consent of the private college and imposition of fine on these colleges and universities for failing to abide by the deadlines. After 18th February students not admitted to any college may confirm centrally to the Authority of their willingness to be admitted on a vacant seat along with their preferences of five colleges and the Authority shall send nominations for placements one time to the colleges who shall evaluate the student nominated strictly on merit and if so found to meet the criteria shall offer admission where such admissions are completed by 28th February 2022.</p> <p>The Secretary briefed that such measures have been taken by PMC to ensure that students get their right to admission despite the negligence of the colleges in following the timelines that had been repeatedly notified. PMC has been working proactively to ensure that colleges comply with the regulations and timelines and being the statutory regulator PMC remains objective towards safeguarding a transparent and merit based system for admissions.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>Keeping in view the status of vacant seats after the closure of admissions and considering the views of the colleges, as received, the Council unanimously</p>



	approved that subsequent to the assessment of admitted student lists uploaded by each private and public medical and dental college and reconciling any complaints by students, recommendations for placements on Vacant Seats shall be made by the Authority under the Vacant Seat Policy as approved and issued by the Council.
Action Required	Authority to urgently issue a press release regarding the special vacant seat policy for public information. Same to be communicated to all colleges and universities. Furthermore, all final additions on vacant seats to be carried out and handled directly by the Authority and any complaint(s) or issues raised by the students to be addressed. Education Division to ensure that all vacant seats are duly filled by 28 February 2022.
Compliance by	Education Division Council Secretary Office



Secretary

Pakistan Medical Commission

