



PAKISTAN MEDICAL COMMISSION

Minutes

Eleventh Council Meeting

Saturday, May 14th, 2022

Held at PMC, Islamabad

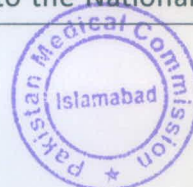
Present

1. Dr. Arshad Taqi, President
2. Mr. Muhammad Ali Raza, Vice President
3. Surg. Gen. of Armed Forces Medical Service, Member
4. Mr. Aamir Ashraf Khawaja, Secretary, M/o NHR&C, Member
5. Dr. Rumina Hasan, Member
6. Dr. Asif Loya, Member
7. Dr. Anis Ur Rahman, Member
8. Mr. Tariq Ahmed Khan, Member
9. Mr. Dawar Adnan Shams (Secretary to the Council)

Meeting was chaired by the President and called to order.

The President welcomed all members of the Council and formally started the meeting. The Vice President informed the Council about the election of new President CPSP, Prof. Dr. Shoaib Shafi. The Council congratulated Dr. Shoaib Shafi for being elected as the President, CPSP and to become the Member of the National Medical and Dental Academic Board. It was decided that on behalf of the Council, a congratulatory note be sent to Dr. Shoaib Shafi.

Item No. 1	Approval of the Minutes of the 10th Council Meeting held on 15th February, 2022
Discussion	The Vice President requested the Council for formal approval of the minutes of 10 th Council meeting held on 15 th February 2022, which were earlier approved through circulation.
Decision	The Council unanimously approved the minutes of the 10 th Council meeting.
Item No. 2	Issues of Foreign Medical Graduates
Discussion	The Council was informed that certain segments of the foreign medical graduates (FMGs) submitted some proposals to the National Medical Authority

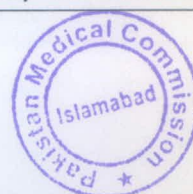


(NMA) requesting that:

1. The passing marks for NLE 1 & NLE 2 or at least NLE 2 be reduced to 50% from 70% to bring it in line with the professional as well as the university exams; Or
2. NLE-2 be withdrawn as a pre-condition to grant of a license to the foreign graduates until such time that it becomes applicable on Pakistani graduates.

The Vice President apprised that since the structure of NLE 1 & NLE 2 and the passing marks comes under the mandate of the Academic Board, therefore the matter was forwarded to the Board for their consideration. The Board in its 43rd meeting held on 13th May 2022, discussed the matter in detail and decided that the passing percentage of NLE-2 shall not be lowered from 70% due to the following grounds:

- NLE tests the competency, knowledge and skills of a graduate to ensure they are a 'safe doctor' as they would be granted a license to treat patients independently. The NLE skills exam represents the basic skills which are mandatory for patient handling and management in the absence of which patients would be at a severe risk. In view of the structure and purpose of the NLE, it is imperative that graduates are able to show at the least 70% of fundamental basic skills and competencies to ensure patient safety. Lowering the standard will be depriving patients of their fundamental right to be treated by a safe doctor.
- The passing percentage of NLE was decided after deliberation and consensus of the Board and medical practitioners and that giving license to a doctor who is not competent enough to pass basic skills requirement is a risk and is not feasible.
- There are grave concerns arising with evidence of passing percentage of foreign graduates in NLE-1 exam as compared to local graduates and also the passing percentage of NLE-2. Since majority of the foreign graduates are coming from countries where English is not the spoken language therefore, serious concerns exist as to the clinical training they have received in the absence of being able to communicate in the local language with doctors, medical staff at hospitals and patients or being aware of the medical terms ordinarily referred to in the local language. In addition, an absence of clinical training and mostly relying on bookish education is a serious concern and therefore, the NLE exam specially the Clinical Skills exam (NLE-2) is essential to ensure and certify that a foreign graduate has the necessary competency and skills to be a safe doctor.



	<p>NLE 2 results until now confirm this concern with the low passing ratio whereas the skills tested in the exam are the fundamental set of skills needed for a safe doctor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistani graduates are being trained at colleges/teaching hospitals in Pakistan which are directly regulated by the Commission and Universities and physically inspected with total visibility of training levels. The foreign graduates are coming from colleges to which there exists no visibility as to actual standards and recent information about some of these foreign colleges confirm that no clinical training is undertaken. • The pass percentages of different international licensing exams being undertaken in different countries like USMLE etc. was also examined during the meeting, which were found to be above 70%. <p>Keeping in view all the facts, the Board could not find any justification to lower NLE-2 pass percentage from 70% and decided to keep the current pass percentage at 70%.</p> <p>The Council after detailed discussion unanimously endorsed the decision of the Academic Board. The Council directed the Authority to make the detailed reasons public so that there is a clear answer to the public as well as to the applicants of why the NLE passing percentage shall not be lowered from 70%.</p>
Decision	<p>The Council endorsed the decision taken by the Academic Board in its meeting held on 13th May, 2022 of not lowering the passing percentage of NLE-2 from 70%.</p> <p>The Council directed the Authority to make the detailed reasons public of why the Commission is not lowering the NLE pass percentage from 70%.</p>
Action Required	<p>The Authority to notify the decision of the Academic Board including detailed reasons of not lowering the NLE pass percentage from 70%.</p> <p>A press release to be issued reiterating the detailed reasons so that the public as well as the applicants should be aware of why it has been rejected.</p>
Compliance by	Council Secretary Office
Item No. 3	MDCAT Eligibility Standard for Dental and Medical Programs
Discussion	The Council was briefed that under the PMC Medical and Dental Undergraduate



Education (Admissions, Curriculum and Conduct) Regulations 2021, the Academic Board is required every year to assess, analyze and set the standards of eligibility for MDCAT passing marks for admissions in medical and dental colleges. This year, a lot of recommendations have been received from public and private dental colleges requesting that the standards of MDCAT set by the Academic Board at 65% for both dental and medical programs need to be reassessed. They have proposed lowering the merit for admission in dental program from 65%, due to the following reasons:

1. Dental program being the second choice for candidates
2. A lot of high merit students could not afford high admission and tuition fees of dental program
3. Majority of the students are not interested in dental program, despite having the option of applying for financial help preferred not to enroll in dental colleges

The Council was informed that since the structure and passing marks of MDCAT comes under the domain of the Academic Board, therefore the matter was forwarded to the Board for their consideration. The Council was apprised that the Authority held two meetings on the subject matter with the dental colleges of Sindh on 11th May 2022 followed by all Pakistan dental colleges on 12th May 2022. Both meetings were chaired by Dr. Anis ur Rahman and Co-chaired by Dr. Saqib Qazi and Dr. Ambreen Afzal, Members of the Academic Board.

Dr. Anis briefed the Council members that the meeting on 11th May 2022 was called with the purpose to resolve the issue of admissions in private dental colleges of Sindh. However, none of the private dental colleges attended the meeting. All the public dental colleges of Sindh were represented, and they confirmed their satisfaction with the MDCAT eligibility for BDS program at 65%. Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU), to which the Sindh government has given the responsibility to control the admissions of all private dental colleges of Sindh, confirmed that Sindh private dental colleges have admitted MDCAT failed candidates on the allocated seats. They also confirmed that MDCAT score of the 590 admitted students were in the lower 50 percentile with an average score of around 55%. JSMU was requested to provide data of average marks of the students admitted in these private dental colleges.

Dr. Anis informed that for the 12th event, out of 61 public and private dental colleges, 40 dental colleges attended the seminar. He highlighted the major recommendations of the seminar including:

- Majority of the participants agreed on lowering the MDCAT passing score



for dental college admissions;

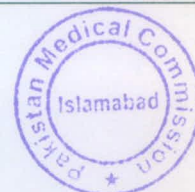
- time gap of 2-3 weeks between admission dates of MBBS and BDS;
- unanimous agreement by the participants that the Sindh High Court decision be followed in true letter and spirit and that non-MDCAT pass students admitted in private dental colleges of Sindh should not be regularized; and
- initiation of 5-years dental program.

The Council was informed that the Academic Board in its meeting held on 13th May 2022 discussed the matter of MDCAT eligibility in detail and agreed that setting a pass percentage at 65% is high particularly for BDS program as this is considered a huge issue for survival of the dental colleges. The Board, by a slim majority agreed to lower MDCAT pass percentage to 60% for dental program and to keep the pass percentage at 65% for medical program. The Board requested the Authority to provide data of average MDCAT scores from the provinces as well as from JSMU to determine whether the passing score shall be at 60% or lower.

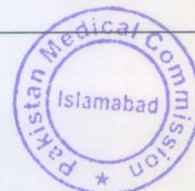
The Council while discussing the recommendation of the Board also considered requests of the private dental colleges, and admissions data of the last two years where a large number of students despite of qualifying the MDCAT with over 65% marks did not elect to obtain admission in private dental colleges. The Council suggested to the Board to consider fixing the MDCAT pass percentage for dental program at 55% rather than 60%.

The Council directed the Authority to collect data of average MDCAT scores from the provinces as well as from JSMU who in the meeting with the Authority had specifically stated that majority of the approximately 590 MDCAT failed students admitted to private dental colleges in Sindh had an average marks in the 55% range or possibly lower, and forward the same to the Academic Board within one week for them to make the final decision on reducing the passing percentage for dental program.

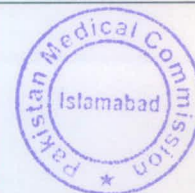
As for the legal ramifications of lowering the pass percentage for dental program, the Council was informed that under the law, there is no restriction on having separate MDCAT eligibility for dental program as against the medical programs since MBBS and BDS are two distinct programs. Hence, there is no reason why two different eligibilities cannot be put in place. However, for lowering the eligibility score below 65%, it was proposed that an amendment shall be required in sub regulation 8 of Regulation 5 of the PMC Conduct of Examinations Regulations 2021, which states that passing marks shall not be less



	<p>than 65%. Upon recommendation of the Vice President, the Council unanimously approved that the proviso to sub regulation 8 of Regulation 5 of the PMC Conduct of Examinations Regulations 2021 be omitted.</p> <p>The Council also discussed the need of increased opportunities for dental practitioners in Pakistan. Currently opportunities for dental graduates are limited in mainly private practices in the urban centers or as faculty in dental colleges. The limited facilities do not serve the larger population of Pakistan. While there is a positive ratio of dentists per capita in the main urban cities however, an extremely negative ratio of dentists per capita in the semi urban, rural and periphery areas which needs to be improved. The Council decided to issue a formal advisory to the Federal and Provincial Governments suggesting the development and provision of dental facilities in all public hospitals at DHQ, THQ and rural levels.</p> <p>The Council also considered the request submitted by private and public dental colleges for filling of the current vacant seats. After detailed discussion, the Council decided to discuss the matter with relevant provincial governments and directed the Authority to provide a detailed paper with analysis prior to giving a final decision on this particular issue.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>The Council agreed to the Board’s recommendation for reducing the MDCAT pass percentage for BDS Program, however, recommended to the Board to consider fixing the MDCAT pass percentage for dental program at 55% rather than 60% suggested by the Board. The Council directed the Authority to collect data of average MDCAT scores from the provinces as well as from JSMU and forward the same to the Academic Board within one week to enable the Board to make a final decision on reducing the eligibility passing percentage of MDCAT for dental program.</p> <p>The Council unanimously approved that the proviso to sub regulation 8 of Regulation 5 of the PMC Conduct of Examinations Regulations 2021 be omitted. The Council directed the Authority to upload the amended regulations on PMC website</p> <p>The Council decided to issue a formal advisory to the Federal and Provincial Governments suggesting development and provision of dental facilities in all public hospitals at DHQ, THQ and rural levels.</p>
<p>Action Required</p>	<p>The Authority to collect data of average MDCAT scores from the provinces as well as from JSMU and forward the same to the Academic Board.</p>



	<p>The Authority to incorporate approved amendments in the PMC Conduct of Examinations Regulations 2021 and upload the same on PMC website</p> <p>Council Secretary office to ensure issuance of Advisory to the Federal and Provincial Governments suggesting development and provision of dental facilities in all public hospitals at DHQ, THQ and rural levels.</p> <p>The Authority to prepare a detailed paper with analysis on vacant seats within one week and submit the same to the Council for their consideration.</p>
Compliance by	<p>Council Secretary Office</p> <p>Authority and the National Medical and Dental Academic Board</p>
Item No. 4	Scheduling of Admission Dates by National Admissions Scheduling Committee
Discussion	<p>The Council considered the requests from medical and dental colleges proposing to schedule fixed dates for admissions in medical and dental colleges. The Council was apprised that as per regulations, colleges have been given the freedom to decide among themselves to fix the dates for admissions in public and private medical and dental colleges keeping in view the final closure of national admissions. PMC cannot decide on their behalf as every province has its own admission processes. The Vice President proposed the constitution of a National Admissions Scheduling Committee and suggested the following addition of Regulation 3A in the Medical and Dental Undergraduate Education (Admissions, Curriculum and Conduct) Regulations 2021;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A National Admissions Scheduling Committee shall be constituted consisting of the following members; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A nominee of each Provincial Public Sector Admitting University; b) A nominee of the Public Sector Admissions Committee of AJ&K; c) A nominee of the Federal Capital Territory Public Sector Admitting University; d) A nominee of National University of Medical Sciences; e) Two nominees of the Private Medical Colleges; and f) Two nominees of the Private Dental Colleges 2) The nomination of each member, under Sub-Regulation 1, shall be submitted to the Authority by or before 15th June of each year. 3) The National Admissions Scheduling Committee shall meet on the first Monday of July each year to determine by consensus the final date for



closure of admissions of each of the following;

- a) Public Sector Medical Colleges (including special category seats);
- b) Public Sector Dental Colleges (including special category seats);
- c) Private Sector Medical Colleges; and
- d) Private Sector Dental Colleges.

Provided that the general principle to be applied by the National Admissions Scheduling Committee shall be that admissions to medical colleges should be concluded prior to admissions of dental colleges are concluded, and admissions to the public sector colleges are concluded prior to the admissions to private colleges are concluded.

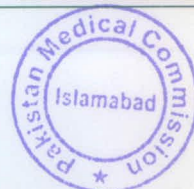
4) The National Admissions Scheduling Committee shall submit the final schedule of admissions under Sub Regulation (3) to the Authority by 15th July of each year and the same shall be notified by the Authority:

Provided that all admissions under sub-regulation 3 shall stand concluded by or before 28th February of each year including the final submission of admitted students by all universities as required under sub regulation 11 of regulation 4, sub regulation 18 of regulation 5 and sub section 3 of section 19 of the Act.

In addition, the following amendments in Medical and Dental Undergraduate Education (Admissions, Curriculum and Conduct) Regulations 2021, were placed before the Council for approval.

1. Sub regulation (8) of Regulation 4 be omitted.
2. Sub regulation (11) of Regulation 5 be omitted
3. Following amendment be made to sub regulation (9) of Regulation 4:

The final list of admitted students shall be made public by or before the applicable final date to be notified by the Authority pursuant to sub regulation 3 of regulation 3A ~~15th January~~ of each year. Thereafter, upon final verification by the relevant universities with whom the college is affiliated the verified list shall be submitted by the university to the Authority in the prescribed manner through PMC Online within thirty days of completion of the admission. No admission shall be entertained and no student registered by the Authority if not admitted by or before the applicable final date to be



notified by the Authority pursuant to sub regulation 3 of regulation 3A 10th January except special category seats where students shall be admitted by or before 10th February.

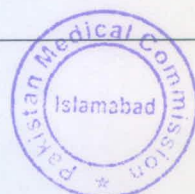
4. Following amendment be made to sub regulation (19) of Regulation 5:

The admissions to private colleges shall be completed by or before the applicable final date to be notified by the Authority pursuant to sub regulation 3 of regulation 3A [30th] 2 January of each year. The final list of admitted students shall be submitted to the Authority in the prescribed manner through PMC Online by each college by or before the final date to be notified by the Authority pursuant to sub regulation 3 of regulation 3A [30th] January of each year. Thereafter, upon final verification of student credentials by the relevant universities with whom the college is affiliated the verified list shall be submitted by the university to the Authority in the prescribed manner through PMC Online within thirty days of completion of the admission. No admission shall be entertained and no student registered by the Authority if not admitted by or before the final date to be notified by the Authority pursuant to sub regulation 3 of regulation 3A.

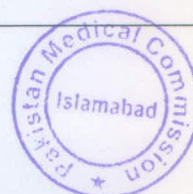
5. Following to be added as sub regulation (19A) of Regulation 5:

A student when accepting admission to a college shall mandatorily disclose to the college if a prior admission has been accepted by them to any other college, and such student shall prior to accepting such latter admission must in writing inform the prior college of cancellation of their acceptance with a copy to the designated email of the Authority. Failure by a student to cancel the prior acceptance of admission shall render all admission offers of the student as void and the student shall be ineligible for admission. All colleges shall ensure that they properly apprise and educate the applicant students of this provision as part of their admissions policy, prospectus and at the time of making an offer of admission.

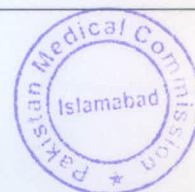
Provided colleges shall be granted a 3 working day window after closure of applicable admissions to fill a seat remaining vacant due to a cancellation of offer by a student through their respective waiting lists



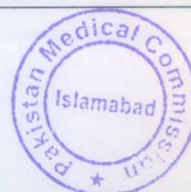
Decision	The Council unanimously approved the constitution of a National Admissions Scheduling Committee and approved the proposed addition of Regulation 3A and amendments to Regulations 4(8), 5(11) and 4(9) in the Medical and Dental Undergraduate Education (Admissions, Curriculum and Conduct) Regulations 2021.
Action Required	<p>The Authority to incorporate approved amendments in the Medical and Dental Undergraduate Education (Admissions, Curriculum and Conduct) Regulations 2021</p> <p>Policy Decision on scheduling of admission dates by National Admissions Scheduling Committee to be uploaded on PMC website.</p> <p>Education and Evaluation Division to draft a letter requesting for nominations for the National Admissions Scheduling Committee.</p>
Compliance by	<p>Education Division</p> <p>Council Secretary Office</p>
Item No. 5	Withdrawal of Policy Regarding Dental Program Sharing of Facilities
Discussion	<p>The Council discussed the interim policy of sharing facilities between dental and medical colleges. The Council was briefed that this policy was made because many colleges offering both medical and dental programs share their facilities. However, as per 2019 inspection criteria, the colleges could not share their facilities therefore, many dental colleges were faced with a situation contrary to the 2019 criteria. Due to this reason, an interim policy was made by the Council to allow the sharing of facilities and avoid the dental colleges from being open to penal action until the new 2022 criteria was published.</p> <p>In view of the 2022 Dental College Accreditation Standards, as formulated by the Academic Board providing for specific facilities permissible for sharing between associated medical and dental colleges, having been approved by the Council, the Council decided that this interim Policy having become redundant stands withdrawn with immediate effect.</p>
Decision	The Council unanimously decided to withdraw the interim policy on sharing of facilities between dental and medical colleges with immediate effect.



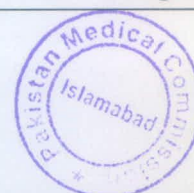
Action Required	Notification to be issued for public information.
Compliance by	Council Secretary office
Item No. 6	Charging of Fee to Category of Students
Discussion	<p>The Council was briefed that the Medical and Dental Undergraduate Education (Admissions, Curriculum and Conduct) Regulations 2021 states that colleges can charge separate fee from Pakistani and Foreign students. The category list of Pakistani students has been shared by the colleges and duly approved by the Council to ensure the regulations are not violated due to any misunderstanding caused by the clause. The regulation does not state that the fee from Pakistani students studying from abroad can only be paid by them in Pak Rupees. The fee can be charged in their own respective currency where they reside permanently however, the fee amount will be the same as per the applicable category. If any student falls in different category, the different fee will be applicable.</p> <p>Keeping this in view, an amendment was proposed to the Sub regulation (4) of Regulation 9 of the Medical and Dental Undergraduate Education (Admissions, Curriculum and Conduct) Regulations 2021 which shall be amended as follows;</p> <p>Notwithstanding scholarships granted to a student, the college shall charge the <u>notified same</u> fee to all <u>category of</u> Pakistani Students. The college may charge a higher fee from a Foreign Student.</p>
Decision	The Council unanimously approved the proposed amendment in the Medical and Dental Undergraduate Education (Admissions, Curriculum and Conduct) Regulations 2021 with further clarification to ensure that the same fee is applicable to all category of Pakistani students.
Action Required	The Authority to incorporate approved amendment in the Medical and Dental Undergraduate Education (Admissions, Curriculum and Conduct) Regulations 2021 and uploaded the same on PMC website.
Compliance by	<p>Legal Division</p> <p>Education Division</p> <p>Council Secretary Office</p>



Item No. 7	Amendment in sub regulation 8 of Regulation 5 of the PMC Conduct of Examinations Regulations 2021
Discussion	As discussed and decided in Item No. 3 above, the sub regulation 8 of Regulation 5 of the PMC Conduct of Examinations Regulations 2021 shall be omitted as follows: <i>Provided that recommended passing marks shall not be less than sixty five percent</i>
Decision	Deletion of Proviso to Regulation 8(5) approved by the Council.
Action Required	The Authority to incorporate approved amendment in the PMC Conduct of Examinations Regulations 2021 and uploaded the same on PMC website.
Compliance by	Legal Division Council Secretary Office Education Division
Item No. 8	Provincial Participation in Conduct of MDCAT Exam
Discussion	The Council was briefed about the demand of Sindh and Punjab provincial governments that the MDCAT exam must be held transparently with participation and involvement of the provincial authorities. Such participation to include a review of the syllabus and conduct of the MDCAT exam. In this regard, the following draft Policy was presented to the Council for approval: (1) <i>Prior to 15th June of each year every provincial, federal or any other recognized higher secondary education board upon review of the MDCAT curriculum as formulated and approved by the Board, inform the Authority in writing, with relevant evidence, as to any topic contained in the MDCAT curriculum which is not included in the high secondary education boards curriculum. Any topic identified shall be omitted from the MDCAT curriculum and necessary amendment shall be made to the MDCAT curriculum upon approval of the Board.</i> (2) <i>Every provincial, federal or any other recognized higher secondary education board may submit to the Examination Department of the Authority proposed questions on topics included in the MDCAT curriculum for inclusion in the question bank subject to assessment</i>



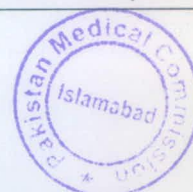
	<p><i>and review.</i></p> <p>(3) <i>There shall be constituted a Provincial MDCAT Committee in each Province consisting of three members nominated by the Provincial Government of which two shall be from public sector medical universities and one from a private medical university.</i></p> <p>(4) <i>The Provincial MDCAT Committee shall provide supervision of the MDCAT Exam conducted in the Province by the Examination Department of the Authority. The Committee shall;</i></p> <p><i>a) Inspect all the exam centers to ensure students are properly facilitated and the exam is conducted properly in accordance with the regulations;</i></p> <p><i>b) Liaison with local authorities to ensure necessary assistance is available for security of the center and facilitation of students;</i></p> <p><i>c) Receive any complaints by students and ensure redressal by the Examination Department of the Authority of; and</i></p> <p><i>d) Review with the Examination Department and the panel of experts appointed by the Authority any questions communicated by a student as being incorrect prior to the final post exam analysis.</i></p> <p>The Council agreed that the involvement of provincial stakeholder in conduct of MDCAT exam is essential for ensuring transparency, visibility, sharing of responsibility and ownership.</p>
Decision	The Council unanimously approved the Policy for Provincial MDCAT Committees.
Action Required	The policy decision to be made public and the same be sent to provincial governments, colleges and universities.
Compliance by	Education Division Council Secretary Office
Item No. 9	Readiness Plan for Setting up Long Term In-House Digital Examination System at PMC HQ by IT Division of National Medical Authority.
Discussion	The National Medical Authority (NMA) in its meeting held on 9 th May 2022 approved a proposal of setting up long-term in-house digital examination system facility at PMC Headquarters in Islamabad. The same proposal was presented to the Council for perusal and approval of the budgetary allocation and



procurement subsequently. Member IT was requested to brief the Council on the proposal. Member IT apprised that the Authority was directed by the Council in its meeting held on 15th February 2022, to initiate the conduct of in-house examinations. The IT Division prepared a working paper that clarifies the role of IT for in-house exam conduct. For the most immediate NLE exam conducted in March 2022, emergency procurement was done. However, it was advised by the Council that for any future exam, proper procurement procedures must be followed and the same was kept in consideration while preparing the working paper/proposal for in-house examination. The Council was informed that for upcoming June NLE 1 exam, Authority has initiated the procurement process as per laid down procedures. For MDCAT September examination, the proposal indicates details with regards to procurement procedures and long-term conduct of in-house examination. Major procurements need to be done keeping in view time constraint with respect to the approved exam schedule. The Council was further informed that due to Covid pandemic, a global phenomenon originated in IT equipment (servers, switches etc.) manufacturers, which resulted in more than usual lead times in procuring such equipment. The Authority intends to mitigate this risk and initiated procurement on priority to avoid any delays for the conduct of MDCAT 2022 as per approved examination schedule.

Upon a query raised by the Council member regarding approval of the budget for MDCAT exam 2022, Member IT answered that the budget has not been approved however, Member Finance is working on it. The Council instructed the Authority to get the detailed working done to ensure that the budget reflects any changes or addition in procurement plan before presenting it to the Finance Committee for approval. The detailed working to be completed and approved by the Finance Committee within one week.

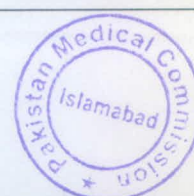
Mr. Tariq asked Member IT to share comparative analysis of the last two years' estimated budgets, revenue and expenses to help the decision making easy and on factual grounds. He was informed that the budget working being prepared by the Authority will cover all the details. Upon a query raised by the Council member regarding viability of budgeted amount, he was informed that the budget is in line with estimated revenue and if any change is made, the expense will still be in line with the revenue for MDCAT. The Council was informed that major procurement is a one-time cost (capital expenditure) and the procured IT equipment shall become PMC's assets to be utilized for future exams. For the following years and subsequent exams, minimal amount will be allocated for ongoing processes and up gradation of system. The Council was also apprised that the proposed procurement will help set up the base for establishing PMC's own Private IT Central Cloud (data center). This will be a complete in-house operation



	<p>through which PMC will be able to control the MDCAT exam being conducted all across Pakistan and abroad. In future, all other digitization activities and all portals including PMC online and PMC website shall be hosted on this private cloud.</p> <p>The Council discussed about the dates of MDCAT exam 2022, and decided that the registration for MDCAT will be opened from 25th May, 2022 and the exam will be held from 7th September to 30th September, 2022. The Council directed the Authority to make it public.</p> <p>The Vice President apprised the Council members that the Authority has managed acquiring arrangements with a consortium comprising of 50-60 public universities including Quaid-i-Azam University being one of the leading members of the consortium. Through this consortium, PMC was able to hold NLE-1 exam in March, in the auditoriums and exam facilities of these universities. They provided administrative arrangements, invigilation, seating, electricity, air conditioning, and security etc. The Authority is now negotiating with the same Consortium for the conduct of upcoming exams. The Council was apprised in detail on acquiring the services of the consortium for the conduct of upcoming exams. The Council after detailed discussion agreed that direct arrangements shall be made with the consortium having all public universities as members, which under the PPRA rules are exempted from the requirement of tendering.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>The Authority was directed to submit a detailed budget along with comparative financial report of last year's MDCAT and this year's projected amount within one week to the Finance Committee for their consideration and approval.</p> <p>The Council decided that the registration for MDCAT will be opened from 25th May, 2022 and the exam will be held from 7th September to 30th September, 2022.</p> <p>The Council considered the matter of acquiring arrangements with the Consortium and agreed that direct arrangements shall be made with the Consortium having all public universities as members, which under the PPRA rules are exempted from the requirement of tendering.</p>
<p>Action Required</p>	<p>Authority to share the detailed comparison of financial budget from last year's MDCAT with this year's estimated budget for approval of the Finance Committee.</p> <p>The Authority to make the MDCAT 2022 exam dates public.</p>



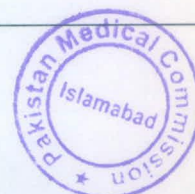
Compliance by	Executive Member Member Finance Member IT
Item No. 10	Decision of the Disciplinary Committee in the matter of Show Cause Notice No. F-4-MISC-61-2022-Legal/3190 dated 14-03-2022 issued to Muhammad College of Medicine, Peshawar
Discussion	<p>The Vice President PMC briefed the Council members that Muhammad College of Medicine, Peshawar is found to be illegally demanding donations from the students for grant of admission to the college in session 2021-22 which is a gross violation of the PMC Act 2020 and the Admission Regulations 2021 issued by the Commission.</p> <p>The Disciplinary Committee took notice of the numerous complaints available on record from students who were asked donations by the College to secure admission in the College and which they allege that they could not obtain admission in the College for the reason that they could not fulfill the demand of donation of the College. More importantly, the report of surprise visit of the College to check the veracity of such allegations against the College and get the information on demand of donation by the College establishes beyond any doubt that the College is involved in such activities. Therefore, DC observed that the manner in which the College is conducting its financial affairs with the prospective students/applicants in found to be extremely unprofessional and sub-par. Such conduct of the College to demand or receive from a student or a student's family, directly or indirectly, any donation or other payment prior to or at the time of admission whether as consideration for grant of admission or otherwise, is a gross violation of the PMC Act 2020 and the Admission Regulations issued by this Commission.</p> <p>A concern was raised by Dr. Rumina that the students being transferred to different colleges, will they be in the same locality or not because if there are no seats within the same area, this might create problem for the students. The Vice President explained that though it might not be possible to accommodate all 500 odd students within the same locality however, the Authority should be considering the best possible solution of transferring students in the closest vicinity and also be considering the possibility of allotting over and above seats in some colleges.</p> <p>A possibility of penalizing college by restricting admission process for two or more years was also explored by the Council members to ensure the current</p>



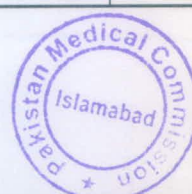
	<p>students are not disadvantaged by transfers however, the college is penalized financially.</p> <p>The Council was further informed that this college has already been penalized in the past and since then the college is still in violation of the decision and is currently facing several cases in High Court. Therefore, a recommendation was made to the Council to shut down the college and to instruct the Authority to transfer the current students in other colleges.</p> <p>After detailed discussion on the matter and exploring all possible options, the Council approved the closure of Muhammad Medical College Peshawar due to repeated cases of illegal admissions and demanding donations from the students. The Council directed the Authority to make the adjustment plan within one week for placing the students in other colleges.</p>
Decision	<p>The Medical and Dental Council, upon the recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee, approved the closure of Muhammad College of Medicine, Peshawar due to repeated cases of illegal admissions and demanding donations from the students and for the reasons set out in the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.</p> <p>The Council directed the Authority to make the adjustment plan within one week for placing the existing students of Muhammad College of Medicine, Peshawar in other colleges.</p>
Action Required	<p>Policy decision on closure of Muhammad College of Medicines to be uploaded on PMC website and social media for public information.</p> <p>Letter of closure of Muhammad College of Medicine to be issued by the Education Division.</p> <p>Authority to devise an adjustment plan to place the existing students in other colleges within one week.</p>
Compliance by	<p>Education Division</p> <p>National Medical Authority</p> <p>Council Secretary Office</p>
Item No. 10	Decision of the Disciplinary Committee in the matter of Show Cause Notice No. PF.11.SCN/HR/PMC/2021/580 issued to Mr. Ghulam Ali
Discussion	The Council was briefed about one of the PMC employees, Mr. Ghulam Ali who was initially hired on 7 th March 2002 on the position of "Security Guard" in the



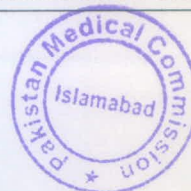
	<p>erstwhile Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PMDC) on contractual basis for a period of 3 months in the PMDC's Administration Division. Mr. Ghulam Ali's contract was later extended for a period of one year and thereafter he was regularized in BPS-1 on 31st May 2003.</p> <p>PMDC stood dissolved on promulgation of the Pakistan Medical Commission and all employees of PMDC became the employees of PMC subject to the terms and conditions laid down by the Council in the PMC Service Regulations, 2020 framed under Section 8(2)(a) and Section 40(1)(e) of the PMC Act 2020.</p> <p>The Vice President, who also heads the Disciplinary Committee stated that Mr. Ghulam Ali has been absent from the office since 2nd August 2021 on the basis of medical grounds, however, the leave was not approved by the Human Resource Department due to lack of supporting medical documents. A show cause was issued to Mr. Ghulam Ali dated 13-01-2022 for being absent from duty since 02-08-2021. Upon receiving no response, a hearing notice was issued to him on 15-04-2022 to appear before the Disciplinary Committee on 23-04-2022. On date of hearing, Mr. Ghulam Ali did not appear before the Disciplinary Committee.</p> <p>Mr. Ghulam Ali is guilty of misconduct and has been negligent in the performance of his duties as he has been absent from work on the pretext of medical reason without substantiating his medical condition/sickness and applying for medical leave under the Leave Policy. In view of the facts and the relevant provision of the law the Disciplinary Committee recommended that Mr. Ghulam Ali must be terminated with immediate effect as he has failed to maintain good office behavior and is therefore guilty of misconduct, hence has violated the Service Regulations.</p> <p>Upon the recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee, the Council approved the termination of Mr. Ghulam Ali from the date of absence.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>In view of the details presented to the Council, the Council agreed to the recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee of terminating Mr. Ghulam Ali from service from the date of his absence. It was also decided that the termination letter to be issued immediately.</p>
<p>Action Required</p>	<p>The Secretary to inform the Member Administration & HR of the Council decision and ensure the termination letter is issued to Mr. Ghulam Ali immediately</p>



Compliance by	Council Secretary Office Member Administration & HR																																											
Item No. 11	Formal Approval of Policy Decisions which were taken from time to time via circulation																																											
	<p>It is submitted that the council has taken various decisions through circulation keeping in view the urgency of the matter and time constraints.</p> <p>Formal approval is sought for all such decisions (as follows) which the Council has already considered in the past:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No.</th> <th>Subject / Topic</th> <th>Email dated</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Appointment of Member Finance - 2nd Candidate</td> <td>23rd February 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Recommendation for payment of Remuneration to MCQs preparation / reviewer resources</td> <td>7th March 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Decision Regarding Matter of Students of Three Newly Recognized Medical Colleges of Balochistan</td> <td>9th March 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Balochistan quota seats- report</td> <td>10th March 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>Inspection Report of Punjab Institute of Neurosciences (PINS), Lahore</td> <td>11th March 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.</td> <td>MoM – 10th Meeting of the Council held on 15th February 2022</td> <td>15th March 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.</td> <td>PMC New Logo</td> <td>16th March 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8.</td> <td>Licensing Pathways</td> <td>19th March 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9.</td> <td>Working Paper on Revision in IT Organogram</td> <td>26th March 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.</td> <td>Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 18th March, 2022 – Interviews of Member Examinations and Member Education & Evaluation</td> <td>31st March 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11.</td> <td>DIPD - Consideration of Financial Evaluation Report: Scanning and Archiving Legacy Documents with Document Management System and Warehouse Facility</td> <td>8th April 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12.</td> <td>Number of Attempts for NLE Aspirants</td> <td>16th April 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13.</td> <td>Pathway for IOK Students & Foreign</td> <td>17th April 2022</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		S. No.	Subject / Topic	Email dated	1.	Appointment of Member Finance - 2 nd Candidate	23 rd February 2022	2.	Recommendation for payment of Remuneration to MCQs preparation / reviewer resources	7 th March 2022	3.	Decision Regarding Matter of Students of Three Newly Recognized Medical Colleges of Balochistan	9 th March 2022	4.	Balochistan quota seats- report	10 th March 2022	5.	Inspection Report of Punjab Institute of Neurosciences (PINS), Lahore	11 th March 2022	6.	MoM – 10 th Meeting of the Council held on 15 th February 2022	15 th March 2022	7.	PMC New Logo	16 th March 2022	8.	Licensing Pathways	19 th March 2022	9.	Working Paper on Revision in IT Organogram	26 th March 2022	10.	Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 18 th March, 2022 – Interviews of Member Examinations and Member Education & Evaluation	31 st March 2022	11.	DIPD - Consideration of Financial Evaluation Report: Scanning and Archiving Legacy Documents with Document Management System and Warehouse Facility	8 th April 2022	12.	Number of Attempts for NLE Aspirants	16 th April 2022	13.	Pathway for IOK Students & Foreign	17 th April 2022
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	Students graduating from Pakistan	
14.	TDR Investment Approval	19 th April 2022
15.	Council Agenda- Proposed Amendments to Exam Regulations 21 st April 2022	21 st April 2022
16.	Change in Authorized Signatories	30 th April 2022
17.	Extension in Transfer Window on Vacant Seats – Admissions 2022	30 th April 2022
18.	Dr. Anis ur Rahman to permanently replace Secretary, M/o NHR&C as DC Member	9 th May 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 Council's record for future reference.	
Compliance by	Council Secretary Office	
Additional Agenda Item No. A	Illegal Protest by FMGs	
Discussion	<p>Executive Member was invited to brief the Council Members about the protest by FMGs on 13th May in front of PMC head office. She informed that these protestors were the students who failed the NLE exam and were demanding to either remove the NLE-2 as a pre-condition to grant of a license or to lower the passing marks from 70% to 50%. This matter was forwarded to the Board and the Board has already taken the decision of keeping the pass percentage at 70%.</p> <p>She informed that multiple meetings were held with different delegations of FMGs, every time a different group of foreign graduates came up with different demands. Some of their concerns have already been addressed after due consideration. Though they were informed that their additional concerns have been forwarded to the appropriate forum for consideration, still they broke into PMC gates, came inside, blocked the entry points of PMC building, and essentially made 200 of PMC employees' hostage for over five hours. She also informed about the unfortunate incident of a medical emergency of an employee who was denied exit from the building by the protestants. Upon repeated efforts by the Authority and local administration she was sent to the</p>	

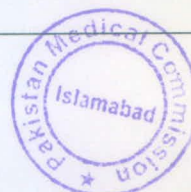


nearby hospital where she was admitted in emergency and diagnosed to have a ruptured ovarian cyst. The Authority also received multiple threats from these violent protestors. Ultimately, with the support of Secretary, M/o NHR&C police action took place at about 7pm when they were removed from the building and PMC employees were allowed to go home.


The Council severely condemned the protest by foreign medical graduates and noted that on a number of occasions in the past, members of the Council and the Authority were available and met with the representatives of foreign medical graduates to address their concerns. Many of their concerns have already been addressed, and therefore this method of harassing and threatening an institution into accepting demands is simply unacceptable. Protests should be undertaken in a civilized manner without violating the law and if any person is not satisfied with the decision, they have legal remedies available, however placing the well-being of people and public facility at risk was uncalled. In order to ensure the safety of the employees and the building, the Council recommended the following:

- Making people hostage or harming them or the premises is not acceptable. If the protest has to be recorded and registered, it needs to be done outside the premises with allowing people access to and from the building.
- A code of ethics or regulation needs to be made clarifying that if any licensed practitioner is found to be blocking access to a hospital, access of a patient, access of another doctor, access of health worker or access of a public building, his/her license shall be cancelled.
- The videos from the security cameras of PMC or recorded by PMC employees must be made public to contradict the statements made by protestors of peaceful protest on various social media accounts.
- An FIR must be registered against such protestors who intend to bring harm to the public building and/or employees.
- The district administration/law enforcement authorities should not be involved with the protestors or endorse their statements. Their role must be restricted to maintain law and order and secure the premises.
- The Authority to ensure that security of the building is enhanced for such events by installing more security cameras and having security personnel in place.

The Council appreciated the efforts of the Authority in handling the protestors in a professional manner and advised the Authority to work on proposed points.



<p>Decision</p>	<p>The Council severely condemned the illegal protest by foreign medical graduates. To ensure the safety of the employees and the building, the Council recommended the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making people hostage or harming them or the premises is not acceptable. If the protest has to be recorded and registered, it needs to be done outside the premises with allowing people access to and from the building. • A code of ethics or regulation needs to be made clarifying that if any licensed practitioner is found to be blocking access to a hospital, access of a patient, access of another doctor, access of health worker or access of a public building, his/her license shall be cancelled. • The videos from the security cameras of PMC or recorded by PMC employees must be made public to contradict the statements made by protestors of peaceful protest on various social media accounts. • An FIR must be registered against such protestors who intend to bring harm to the public building and/or employees. • The district administration/law enforcement authorities should not be involved with the protestors or endorse their statements. Their role must be restricted to maintain law and order and secure the premises. • The Authority to ensure that security of the building is enhanced for such events by installing more security cameras and having security personnel in place.
<p>Action Required</p>	<p>The Authority to work on the recommendations of the Council</p>
<p>Compliance by</p>	<p>National Medical Authority Council Secretary Office</p>


Secretary
 Pakistan Medical Commission
