



PAKISTAN MEDICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

TWELFTH MEETING OF THE MEDICAL & DENTAL COUNCIL

Monday, June 27th, 2022

Held at PMC, Islamabad

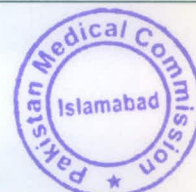
Present

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

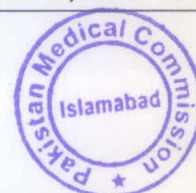
Meeting was chaired by the President and called to order.

The President welcomed all members of the Council and formally started the meeting. The President formally welcomed Dr. Muhammad Fakhre Alam, Secretary, M/o NHR&C, on becoming the Member of the Medical and Dental Council.

Item No. 1	PMC BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23
Discussion	<p>Member Finance was invited to brief the Council on PMC Budget 2022–23. The Council was apprised that budget for the financial year 2022-23 has been prepared in consultation with Members of the National Medical Authority and has been approved by members of the Finance Committee. He explained that before finalizing the budget, detailed meetings were held with each division to understand their business requirements followed by consolidation of division-wise budgets.</p> <p>The summary of the budget 2022-23 was presented to the Council. Revenue analysis and various expenditure heads were discussed in detail. Member Finance apprised that the proposed Budget 2022-23 is primarily driven by the</p>



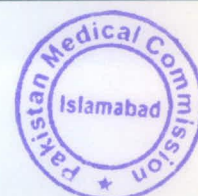
	<p>decision to conduct exams by PMC through its own system. The master plan of IT has already been approved by the Council.</p> <p>The revenue comparison of all divisions and activities was also discussed in detail. The Council noted that HR cost for each department, as proposed by the Authority, need deliberation in the HR Committee. The Council agreed that before putting HR cost (including salary raise and increments) in the budget, it should first be discussed, debated, and agreed in the HR Committee and then the HR Committee will give its views to the Council for consideration and approval.</p> <p>The Council emphasized on the need to revise overall fee structure including licensing and exams etc. to improve the revenue stream. Council advised that before taking any steps for fee enhancement, the Authority needs to review in detail or conduct a proper study over the next quarter on what should be licensing fee moving forward and the impact it will have before presenting it to the Council for approval.</p> <p>The Council was also briefed on PMC scholarship fund. A total of 567 students were awarded PMC scholarships, out of which 243 students have been paid to date whereas, 324 cases are in process. Upon query of Dr. Anis, the Chair informed that PMC scholarship covers tuition fee only and does not cover accommodation and food etc. The Scholarship Committee was advised to look at this issue particularly for students admitted in public colleges, where tuition fee is very minimal. The Scholarship Committee to collect data and come back with a proposal of how to structure scholarship program for the future.</p> <p>The Council after detailed deliberation approved the budget 2022-23 subject to recommendations of the HR Committee on the proposed increment and inflation adjustment. Once the HR Committee reviews the matter and provides its recommendations, it should be circulated to the Council for approval.</p> <p>The Council directed Member Finance to forward the HR cost/proposal alongwith other documents to the HR committee for review. The HR Committee may meet on urgent basis to have a detailed discussion on the proposal and to forward it to the Council for consideration and approval.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>The Council after detailed deliberation approved PMC budget 2022-23 subject to recommendations of the HR Committee on the matter forwarded to the Committee.</p> <p>The Council decided that HR cost pertaining to inflation adjustment of salary and proposed increment should first be reviewed by the HR Committee. The</p>



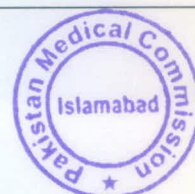
	<p>recommendations of the HR Committee should be circulated to the Council for approval.</p> <p>The Council directed Member Finance to forward the HR cost/proposal alongwith other documents to the HR committee for review. The HR Committee may meet on urgent basis to have a detailed discussion on the proposal and to forward its recommendations to the Council.</p> <p>The Council advised the Scholarship Committee to reconsider coverage of accommodation and food in case of students admitted in public colleges, where tuition fee is very minimal. The Scholarship Committee to collect data and come up with a proposal of how to structure scholarship program for the future.</p>
Action Required	<p>Member Finance to forward the HR cost/proposal alongwith other documents to the HR Committee for review.</p> <p>Secretary PMC to coordinate meeting of the HR Committee.</p>
Compliance by	<p>Finance Division</p> <p>Admin Division</p> <p>Council Secretary Office</p>
Item No. 2	PROPOSED REGISTRATION FEE FOR HOUSE OFFICERS
Discussion	<p>The Council was apprised that in the light of the PMC Medical and Dental Undergraduate Education (Admission, Curriculum and Conduct) Regulations 2021, all medical/dental graduates seeking house job in the PMC recognized teaching hospitals need to get themselves duly registered with PMC. The relevant section of the regulation is reproduced as below:</p> <p><i>“Every house officer on registration with the Commission shall pay to the Commission the prescribed registration fee as may be notified by the Medical and Dental Council. The teaching hospital shall not charge any registration fee or any other fee from the house officers”.</i></p> <p>Pakistan Medical Commission has uploaded a list of allocated seats for house job at recognized teaching hospitals on PMC official website. A teaching hospital shall offer paid house house-job on PMC allocated seats.</p> <p>Moreover, PMC has created an online house job portal where teaching hospital shall upload verified list of admitted house officers to the Authority. All house</p>



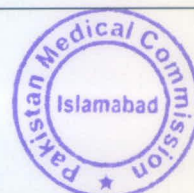
	<p>officers shall be registered with the Commission via this online portal.</p> <p>The Council was informed that the Authority has proposed Rs. 5000/- as one-time registration fee for house job, which shall be submitted by the house officer through the teaching hospital. Council was further informed that the proposed fee is the same as one-time student registration fee which the college pays to PMC at the time of admissions.</p>
Decision	<p>The Council decided that one-time registration fee for House Officers shall be the same as student registration fee which the college pays to PMC at the time of admissions. The registration fee for house officer shall be paid by the teaching hospital.</p>
Action Required	<p>Education & Evaluation division to circulate the Council's decision to all teaching hospitals and colleges as well as on social media.</p> <p>Online portal developed by IT Dept is to be made functional for registration and submission of the approved fee.</p>
Compliance by	<p>Education & Evaluation Division</p>
Item No. 3	<p>RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD FOR MDCAT SUBJECT-WISE WEIGHTAGE</p>
Discussion	<p>The Council was briefed about the recommendations of the Academic Board regarding MDCAT subject-wise weightage. During 42nd and 45th meeting of the Board, MDCAT subject comparison and their weightage was discussed in detail. The Board had suggested that although logical reasoning is not being taught in colleges but as it is part of the international examinations it should be kept in the syllabus. However, as majority of students come from backward areas and they compete with others by their hard work, so logical reasoning can make the exams more difficult for them. The Board hence recommended that Logical Reasoning should be part of the exam as a non-marked subject for MDCAT 2022 exam.</p> <p>For the remaining subjects, the Academic Board proposed the following weightage to each subject for 2022 exam:</p> <p>Biology – from 32% to 35%</p> <p>Physics – from 26.5% to 27.5%</p>



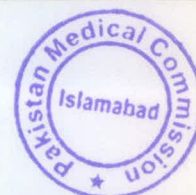
	<p>Chemistry – from 26.5% to 27.5% English – 10%</p> <p>The Council while considering the recommendations of the Board shared their reservations on the proposal of keeping Logical Reasoning as non-marked subject and to remove its weightage. It was discussed that MDCAT 2021 post-exam analysis conducted through Quaid-i-Azam University, indicates that more than 50% questions of the logical reasoning were proved to be good discriminators and were attempted reasonably well by the applicants. Therefore, excluding the entire section from MDCAT 2022 weightage is not justifiable. Moreover, knowing that logical reasoning questions are not going to be contributing to the final weightage, the students will not attempt this section.</p> <p>The Council suggested that weightage for logical reasoning questions should not be totally excluded from MDCAT 2022 exam, rather their percentage be reduced from 5% to 3%.The reason being that a medical / dental student admitted to a college must have some basic level of comprehension and logical reasoning approach to not only being capable of absorbing the knowledge required as a medical/dental, student but also ultimately becoming a good doctor or a dentist. The Council also discussed that questions which were criticized last time were more of general knowledge nature rather than logical reasoning. Also one needs to study actual data of exams to improve the quality of questions based on the analysis of last exam, which would not be possible if the whole section of logical reasoning is removed.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>The Council considered the recommendations of the Academic Board regarding MDCAT weightage of subjects. The Council approved the MDCAT curriculum and weightage of subjects with minor changes.</p> <p>The weightage of questions in respect of subjects in the MDCAT curriculum have been approved as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology – 34% • Chemistry – 27% • Physics – 27% • English – 9% • Logical Reasoning – 3% <p>The MDCAT exam shall consist of a total of 200 MCQs based on the above percentages.</p>



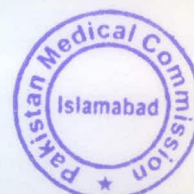
Action Required	<p>Secretary PMC to ensure that policy decision is published on the website as well as on social media and the same to be communicated to the Authority.</p> <p>Education and Evaluation Division to ensure that approved changes are incorporated in the MDCAT Curriculum.</p>
Compliance by	<p>Education and Evaluation Division</p> <p>Exam Division</p> <p>Council Secretary Office</p>
Item No. 4	PROPOSED DELETION IN MDCAT SYLLABUS
Discussion	<p>The Council was apprised that the Authority conducted a seminar to discuss the MDCAT Curriculum 2022 with representation from all Higher Secondary Boards across Pakistan. All Boards were present in the session except Balochistan and Sindh Boards. The MDCAT Curriculum was discussed in detail and all provincial boards reported that they are following the National Curriculum 2006 and confirmed that, with minor discrepancies, MDCAT curriculum is in line with the National Curriculum 2006 and the provincial curriculums. However, textbooks vary from province to province.</p> <p>The Council was briefed that the Academic Board in its 44th meeting constituted a Committee to compile feedback received from provinces and present recommendations to the Board for addition/deletion of topics. The Committee presented its recommendations to the Board in its 45th meeting held on 24th June 2022, in which they proposed that majority of the topics provincial boards suggested to be removed are the ones which some of them are not teaching despite being included in the national curriculum 2006 and corresponding provincial curriculums. The Academic Board after detailed deliberations rejected the suggestions of the provincial boards to delete topics which are otherwise included in the provincial and national curriculum, as these topics are of medical importance and should not be removed from the curriculum.</p> <p>The Board recommended to remove a topic "GOUT" being a clinical topic from the syllabus.</p>
Decision	<p>On the recommendation of the Academic Board, the Council unanimously approved removal of the topic 'Gout' from the MDCAT curriculum.</p>



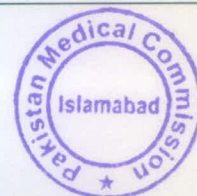
Action Required	Secretary to ensure that decision of the Council is published on PMC website as well as on social media for clarity and the same to be communicated to the Authority.																					
Compliance by	Council Secretary Office																					
Item No.5	FORMAL APPROVAL OF POLICY DECISIONS 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> <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>Inspection Report of 10 Hospitals of Balochistan</td> <td>16th May 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Adjustment plan for the students of Mohammad College of Medicine, Peshawar</td> <td>18th May 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Minutes - 11th Council meeting held on 14th May 2022</td> <td>24th May 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Credentialing Pathways of Aesthetic Medical Practice in Pakistan</td> <td>13th June 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>PMC Gratuity Policy & Pending Gratuity Cases</td> <td>16th June 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.</td> <td>Request for Adjustment of Pakistani/Ukrainian Students in Pakistan Medical Institutions</td> <td>17th June 2022</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Secretary Health, Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination requested that details of the matters at S.No. 4, 5 and 6 above may be forwarded to the Ministry for record as not seen yet by the honorable Secretary Health, while rest are approved.</p>	S. No.	Subject / Topic	Email dated	1.	Inspection Report of 10 Hospitals of Balochistan	16 th May 2022	2.	Adjustment plan for the students of Mohammad College of Medicine, Peshawar	18 th May 2022	3.	Minutes - 11 th Council meeting held on 14 th May 2022	24 th May 2022	4.	Credentialing Pathways of Aesthetic Medical Practice in Pakistan	13 th June 2022	5.	PMC Gratuity Policy & Pending Gratuity Cases	16 th June 2022	6.	Request for Adjustment of Pakistani/Ukrainian Students in Pakistan Medical Institutions	17 th June 2022
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Decision	The Council formally approved the Policy Decisions which were taken from time to time via circulation.																					
Action	Details of matters at S.No. 4, 5 and 6 to be forwarded to the Ministry of National																					



Required	Health Services Regulations & Coordination for record.
Compliance by	Council Secretary Office
Additional Agenda A	MDCAT PASSING PERCENTAGE FOR ADMISSION TO DENTAL COLLEGES
Discussion	<p>The Council was briefed that the Academic Board in its 43rd meeting held on 13th May 2022 discussed the matter of MDCAT eligibility for dental program and by a slim majority agreed to lower MDCAT passing percentage to 60% for dental program and to keep the passing percentage at 65% for medical program.</p> <p>The Council in its 11th meeting held on 14th May 2022, while discussing the recommendations of the Board also considered the requests and feedback of 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 choose to obtain admission in dental colleges. The Council suggested to the Board to reconsider fixing the MDCAT pass percentage for dental program at 55% rather than 60% in view of the multiple reasons put forth and the admissions data collected.</p> <p>The Board in its 44th meeting held on 27th May 2022 considered the suggestion of the Council but after detailed deliberations however, decided not to lower it from the earlier recommended 60% for admission in dental colleges.</p> <p>The Council recorded its appreciation of the work put in by the Board and also in principle agreed with its recommendations. However, the Council noted that it had to also consider the matter as a policy issue taking into consideration ground realities and other aspects beyond the exclusive issue of merit standard and consider all submissions put forth by the dental colleges as well as analyzing the available data of admissions in the past two years.</p> <p>The Council discussed that during the last two years, an increasing number of seats remained vacant in dental colleges because of three primary reasons; a) majority of the students who had qualified the MDCAT with over 65% marks had MBBS as their primary choice and decided not to have dentistry as an alternative choice, b) majority of the high merit students who did not get admission into MBBS programs did not select private dental colleges as an option due to limited financial means to pay private college fees, and c) very few job opportunities in the dental field in view of public sector jobs and even private jobs mainly being</p>



	<p>restricted to faculty positions in dental colleges. As a consequence many private colleges in Sindh and some in Punjab admitted students with majority of them having scored between 55-65% in MDCAT. These were the students who can afford private education.</p> <p>These were the reasons which caused the vacant seats in dental colleges even though there were over 40,000 MDCAT qualified students nationally available who had not obtained admission in medical or dental colleges. The Council highlighted that the decision of taking the pass percentage to 65% last year was based on the data analysis, and the same should be the case for deciding this year's passing percentage. The data shows that private dental colleges have a gap in admissions which is because a large number of students who applied for BDS and can afford private fee had MDCAT scores between 55%-65%.</p> <p>The Council further discussed that lowering the MDCAT passing percentage to 55% will in the immediate ensure filling of vacant seats in dental colleges and end up with 600-700 more dental graduates. Though dental jobs are limited but may be a lot of dental graduates will decide not to become dentists with that degree and may decide to do postgraduation, research or other equivalent/additional qualification. Meanwhile those who wish to practice dentistry will have to go through the process of the licensing exam where skills can be verified before licensing. Therefore, lowering the eligibility for BDS programs will neither in the immediate term deprive merit students of admission as colleges are still required to give first preference to the higher merit student and nor will it harm the profession. More so the Council discussed that it requires actual data of admission levels at 55% eligibility and to then analyze it with past years to determine what should be the eligibility standard long term.</p> <p>The Council for such reasons agreed reducing the edibility for BDS admissions to 55% in MDCAT for 2022-2023 admission year and decided to review its decision in coordination with the Board next year based on the actual data. It was further agreed that the eligibility pass percentage shall not be reduced any further.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>The Council after detailed discussion approved the MDCAT passing percentage of 55% as the minimum eligibility criteria for admission to Dental Colleges for the 2022-23 Session.</p> <p>The Council further decided to review its decision next year based on the actual data.</p> <p>The Council decided to issue a formal advisory to the Federal and Provincial governments suggesting upgradation of dental facilities in Rural Health Centers</p>



	and Basic Health Units, which in addition to improve basic dental health of the public will also be a source of employment for fresh graduate dental surgeons.
Action Required	Secretary PMC to inform the Academic Board about the Council's decision. The same needs to be communicated to the Authority, all dental colleges and be published on social media.
Compliance by	Education and Evaluation Examinations Division Council Secretary Office
Additional Agenda B	DRAFT LICENSING PATHWAYS FOR FOREIGN DENTAL GRADUATES
Discussion	Dr. Anis ur Rahman proposed dental pathways for foreign dental graduates. The Council was informed that foreign graduates licensing pathways have already been developed and published on PMC website. It was discussed that NLE-I is a knowledge base exam which is very important just like NLE-II which is skilled based. No exemptions from NLE shall be allowed to foreign dental graduates on the basis of additional qualifications and the same pathways as already notified shall be followed for both medical and dental foreign graduates. Moreover, the Authority shall prepare a list of foreign dental institutes recognized by the relevant regulators and notify the same after approval of the Council.
Decision	The Council decided that the already notified foreign graduates licensing pathways shall be applicable for both medical & dental graduates. Moreover, the Authority shall prepare a list of foreign dental institutes recognized by the relevant regulators and notify the same after approval of the Council.
Action Required	Secretary PMC to ensure the decision is communicated to the Authority.
Compliance by	Council Secretary Office


Secretary

Pakistan Medical Commission

