

## Pakistan Medical Commission

### Minutes Fourth Council Meeting Wednesday, December, 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020 Held at PMC, Islamabad

#### Present

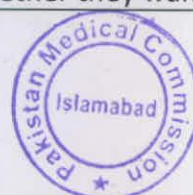
Dr. Arshad Taqi, President  
Mr. Muhammad Ali Raza, Vice President  
Lt. General Nigar Johar Khan, Surgeon General of Pakistan, Member  
Mr. Aamir Ashraf Khawaja, Federal Secretary, Ministry of National Health Services,  
Regulations & Coordination, Member  
Dr. Rumina Hassan, Member (on line)  
Dr. Asif Loya, Member (on line)  
Dr. Anees ur Rehman, Member  
Ms. Roshana Zafar, Member (on line)  
Mr. Tariq Ahmed Khan, Member

Meeting was chaired by the President and called to order  
The meeting started with recitation of the Holy Quran  
The President welcomed all members of the Council.

Agenda No.1	Item	Requirement of Bank Guarantees applied to colleges setup prior to 2012 when the regulations imposed the bank guarantee requirement for the first time.
	Discussion	<p>Council was informed that Private colleges had since 2012 been required to provide bank guarantees to PM&amp;DC as part of their registration process. These bank guarantees were required when PM&amp;DC was regulating the entire process of a private colleges. Council in its 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 directed the Finance Department to prepare a detailed report of total valid bank guarantees held by PMC and it was further decided that any outstanding payments or penalties due from colleges may be settled against bank guarantees if the colleges fail to pay the same.</p> <p>It was reported by the Finance department that bank guarantees of many institutes were found invalid therefore all concerned Private Medical &amp; Dental Colleges were directed by this office to provide/renew the bank guarantees.</p> <p>In response numerous colleges submitted representations on the</p>



	<p>following principle grounds;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) They were setup prior to 2012 hence requirement was not applicable to them.</li> <li>b) The guarantee under the 2012 Regulations was only for a fixed 5 year period. There is no requirement for renewal.</li> <li>c) It was never required by them and nor did PM&amp;DC demand the same.</li> </ol> <p>It was discussed that the requirement for provision of bank guarantee is not limited to colleges which applied post 2012 or for a specific purpose as per facts sated below:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As per Regulation 12 of the 2012 Regulations/Criteria, 3 year period was provided to all pre-existing colleges, to fulfill and conform to the regulations. The requirement for bank guarantee was laid down in these regulations for the first time with the directions for all colleges preexisting 2012 to conform to the new requirements within 3 years.</li> <li>2. The 2012 Regulations were replaced by the 2018 Regulations which were also notified in the Gazette. This provided for the same requirement but added the mention of renewal.</li> </ol> <p>Under Regulation 15 of the 2018 Regulations it categorically states;</p> <p><i>“Provided that the bank guarantees shall be renewed for another term of five years three months before the expiry date.”</i></p> <p>In view of the above the Council determined that;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Colleges prior to 2012 were not required to provide a bank guarantee.</li> <li>II. 2012 Regulations did not specifically provide for a retrospective effect or old colleges to provide bank guarantees.</li> <li>III. 2012 Regulations did not require renewal of guarantees.</li> <li>IV. 2018 added the requirement of renewal.</li> </ol> <p>Moreover it was discussed that moving forward PMC will not be regulating these colleges in terms of their fees or registration. PMC will be inspecting their teaching hospitals and registering students.</p>
<p><b>Decision</b></p>	<p>Council decided that the PMC shall not retain Bank Guarantees submitted by the colleges unless a college has outstanding liabilities. As it is the mandate of a university to regulate the college therefore the university may decide whether they want fresh Bank Guarantees</p>



		<p>from the colleges.</p> <p>It was decided that Bank Guarantees to be returned to the concerned colleges after confirming any outstanding liabilities.</p>
<b>Agenda No.2</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Service &amp; Salary structure for the employees of PMC</b>
	<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Council had as an interim measure directed that the previous salaries be paid to existing employees absorbed in PMC for the months of October and November till the new salary structure is formulated. As reported by the Finance Committee this is being finalized and will require some time in view of finalization of organograms and structures of some specialized departments as well as verification of current market values.</p>
	<b>Decision</b>	<p>It was decided that earlier Council decision may be extended for a further one month till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 to enable Finance Committee to finalize its proposal for Council approval within the month of January 2021.</p>
<b>Agenda No.3</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Amendment to the service regulations keeping in view specific requirement of IT and Finance Department</b>
	<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Council was apprised that the HR Committee in its deliberations has considered the issue raised by the IT and Finance Department regarding highly specialized positions required in both departments which cannot be equated with general hiring of human resource even in managerial categories. In addition, specialized departments such as IT at times require personnel for specific period of a few years depending upon the life span of a project. Hiring permanent regular employees to such positions would be encumbering the institution with cost on a long term which would not be efficient or advisable. In terms of the Finance Department and also in the Law Department where personnel will be required for representing the Commission before the Medical Tribunal, performance and evaluation would be a primary issue to ensure human resource is improved consistently.</p> <p>Moreover, it was discussed that pay scale structure and contract structure for the staff, Administrative Cadre and the Management Cadre needs to be clearly defined in the Service Regulations and therefore that would require amendments to the existing Service Regulations as below;</p> <p>3(t) "Regular Employee" means an employee appointed pursuant to a Contract for a fixed period of time of more than one year, to a Post</p>

or Designation and approved by the Council in the prescribed manner, where a fixed period of time may be defined by attainment of the Retirement Age **or a time stipulated by the Council on the recommendation of the HR Committee.**

3(cc) "Administrative Cadre" means and includes managerial or other designations not included in the Management Cadre and as included therein upon recommendation by the HR Committee and approved by the Council.

6(1) All Regular appointments in PMC shall be made as applicable against either Posts or Designations or positions defined in Cadres against strength as sanctioned and approved by the Council on the advice of HR Committee. **Appointments in the Management Cadre, unless otherwise specified by the Council for exceptional reasons, shall be on a fixed time contract basis.**

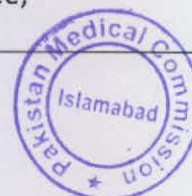
9(2) A non-transferable designation or position shall be a designation or a position in a Department which requires specialized skills, expertise and qualifications and are so notified by the HR Committee. **A non-transferable designation in the Management Cadre shall be on time fixed contract basis.**

19(1) All Regular Employees, except those appointed to Posts or **appointed on fixed time contracts renewable or otherwise**, shall be subject to Pay Grades as notified by the Council on the joint recommendation of the HR Committee and the Finance Committee and formulated jointly by the Member Administration and Member Finance consisting of a minimum and maximum limit to each Pay Grade and as applicable to different Cadres. Each Pay Grade shall have maximum prescribed stages of increments.

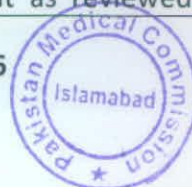
19(2) Pay Grades 1, 2 and 3 shall be applicable to Staff Cadres, Pay Grades 4, 5 and 6 shall be applicable to Administrative Cadre and Pay Grades 7 and 8 shall be applicable to Management Cadre. **For fixed time contracts separate Contractual Pay Grade structure shall be applicable as approved by the Council.**

19(4) All Regular Employees shall receive medical allowance or medical insurance in lieu thereof, accommodation allowance and conveyance allowance and any other one time allowance for a purpose to be recorded and approved by the Council at prescribed rates subject to such one-time allowance not being carried forward to the next year **or repeated in the next year.**

23(2) Notwithstanding sub clause (1) an employee may also be proceeded against and penalized **with a major or minor penalty** if it is determined that the employee;



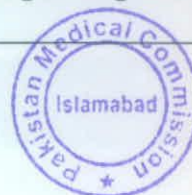
		25 An Employee's contract may be terminated and be removed from service if the Employee is found to be medically unfit as determined by the Council on the recommendation of a medical board constituted by the Council or has failed to achieve two consecutive satisfactory evaluations.
<b>Decision</b>		<p>Having considered the issues, the Council agreed to the proposal of HR Committee that for the <b>Staff and Administrative Cadres</b> a pay scale structure should be based on increments subject to increments being connected to performance. However, for the <b>Management Cadre</b> the structure should be contractual and primarily performance and time based in accordance with utilization needs. The contract structure would in effect represent a contract for a fixed period of time renewable for similar terms subject to performance with the option of the Council to terminate a contract in the event of failure to perform. It was further agreed upon that contracts should also carry a graded pay scale applicable to the Management Cadre which must be commensurate with the skill set and experience required for each approved designation/position.</p> <p>The Council unanimously agreed to the amendments in the service regulations as proposed by HR Committee.</p>
<b>Agenda No.4</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Designations of IT Department</b>
	<b>Discussion</b>	Council was informed that the HR Committee has in detail considered the proposed specialized positions and Contractual Pay Scales for the IT Department. Council was briefed that for IT department certain positions will be required for a fixed period depending upon the span of the project. These include for 3 positions from management cadre and 9 from administrative cadres. These positions /designations may not be required in the longer run and therefore can be hired for a short term on need basis.
	<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council approved the positions and the proposed salary ranges as reviewed and approved by the HR Committee.</p> <p>It was decided that the pay structure for the positions will be rationalized by the Finance Department in light of the proposed salary ranges.</p>
<b>Agenda No.5</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Designations of Council Secretariat</b>
	<b>Discussion</b>	The following designations were proposed on Contractual Pay Scales for the Council Secretariat as reviewed and approved by the HR



		<p>Committee;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Director Policy, Strategy &amp; Research</li> <li>b) Special Personal Assistant to President</li> <li>c) Special Personal Assistant to Vice President</li> <li>d) Special Personal Assistant to Chairman Academic Board</li> <li>e) Special Personal Assistant to Secretary</li> <li>f) Chief Internal Auditor</li> <li>g) Assistant Internal Auditor</li> </ul>
	<b>Decision</b>	<p>Council was informed that Director of Policy, Strategy and Research will act as the liaison officer with the Education, Examination Department ,the Council and the Academic Board. Director will help in development of key policies and strategies, including research, analysis and where needed will also provide advice to the Senior Management Team, making recommendations on policy and strategy options with the approval of the council.</p> <p>The Council agreed for hiring of the proposed positions on urgent basis. Moreover the council agreed upon adding a position of Manager Compliance and Assistant Compliance for the Council Secretariat as proposed earlier by the HR Committee.</p>
<b>Agenda No.6</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Fate of Medical students studying at Foreign Colleges which are not recognized</b>
	<b>Discussion</b>	<p>It was discussed that thousands of Pakistani students are studying in foreign medical colleges which are under assessment by the Commission. Requests have been sent to the Governments of relevant countries to provide us the requisite regulatory confirmations as to each of their medical universities.</p> <p>All such embassies have been sent a verification proforma to be completed for each of the universities identified by them as recognized in their country so that Commission has a proper record of the verifications as per the standard requirements in order to put the universities identified on the green list.</p> <p>It was discussed that any Pakistani student who seeks admission into any of the universities not recognized by the Pakistan Medical Commission should be informed by the Embassy at the time of applying for the visa that these are unrecognized universities and will not result in a grant of license in Pakistan. This may deter these students from being misled by these unrecognized universities and their agents.</p> <p>The council deliberated on alternative pathways for all those students</p>



	who are admitted or have graduated from universities which are under assessment or are blacklisted.
<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council agreed upon the following Licensing pathways for the Foreign Graduates:</p> <p><b><u>Pathway 1</u></b></p> <p><i>Category</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Graduate of a foreign college which is recognized by PMC and placed in the Green List.</li> <li>2. Graduate of a foreign college having qualified NEB Step III prior to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020.</li> <li>3. Holder of a Foreign License issued by a PMC, WFME or ECFMG recognized foreign regulatory body but have not completed a House Job post license.</li> <li>4. Holder of a Foreign License issued by a PMC, WFME or ECFMG recognized foreign regulatory body and having completed their House Job in a foreign institution recognized by the regulatory authority of the relevant country.</li> <li>5. Persons falling under Category 3 and in addition holds a foreign Post Graduate or Alternative to Post Graduate qualification recognized by the PMC.</li> </ol> <p><i>Licensing Path</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. (a) Persons falling in Category 1, 2 or 3 shall be granted a Provisional License on verification of foreign undergraduate qualification from granting university, and if applicable foreign license from the issuing authority. (b) Upon completion of House Job in Pakistan, the person shall be required to qualify the NLE (other than Foreign Graduates who have qualified NEB Step III prior to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020) prior to grant of Full License.</li> <li>2. Persons falling in Category 4 shall be exempted from doing House Job in Pakistan and may obtain Full License upon qualifying the NLE (for Foreign Graduates).</li> <li>3. Persons falling in Category 5 shall be granted a Full License on verification of their Foreign License from the issuing authority and verification of Post Graduate or Alternative qualification from the granting authority.</li> </ol>



## Pathway 2

### *Category*

1. Graduate of a foreign college which is not recognized by PMC and placed in the PMC Black List or is still under process of recognition (Grey List) but is listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools (issued by WFME & FAIMER jointly).
2. Graduate of a foreign college which is not recognized and placed in the PMC Black List.

### *Licensing Path*

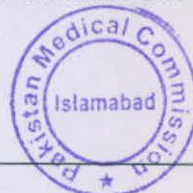
1. Persons falling in Category 1 may obtain a License issued by a foreign regulatory body recognized by PMC, WFME or ECFMG and process under Category 4 of Pathway 1 or Category 5 of Pathway 1 if they have obtained a Post Graduate or Alternative qualification recognized by PMC in addition to the foreign license.
2. Person falling Category 2 shall not be entertained for Licensing by PMC in Pakistan however, may seek recognition of their foreign qualification from the Higher Education Commission as a non-medical undergraduate qualification provided it shall not make them eligible for medical licensing by PMC.

Furthermore the Council decided that the students enrolled in a foreign college not recognized by PMC or placed in the Black List may transfer, subject to rules applicable to transfer in the relevant country / foreign university, to a PMC recognized foreign college in any foreign country. Qualification obtained from a PMC recognized foreign college shall make them eligible for Licensing Pathways applicable to Foreign Graduates.

Students enrolled in a foreign college not recognized by PMC or placed in the Black List may transfer to a Pakistani College in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year ONLY subject to;

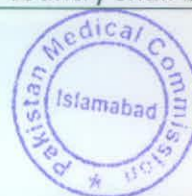
- i) qualifying the MDCAT exam,
- ii) having more than 65% marks in their FSs or HSSC, and
- iii) qualifying the requisite NEB exam for the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Year transfer from a foreign college.

This exemption will be available one time till 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021.





Agenda Item No.6	Policy for the registration of Foreign Colleges which are under assessment
<p><b>Discussion</b></p>	<p>Council was informed that in light of the decision of the Council in its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, ambassadors in different countries have been engaged to expedite the assessment of the foreign colleges. In terms of priority the assessment process has been initiated with those countries where there is a large number of Pakistani students studying or having graduated have returned to Pakistan and are seeking licenses. In this regard letters have been written to various embassies wherein they have been informed that as compared to the previous cumbersome procedure of verifications and foreign graduates having to take a three step examination, under the new law once the foreign college is assessed and recognized, its graduates can seamlessly apply for licensing in Pakistan and would be required to take the same National Licensing Exam that our local graduates are required to take for grant of a practitioners license.</p> <p>The verification proforma based on the criteria approved by the council has been shared with all the embassies. Moreover they have been requested to adopt the appropriate channel to obtain the necessary verifications from the relevant foreign regulatory authorities by ensuring that necessary requests are communicated through the Foreign Ministry and coordinated through our respective embassies in these countries. This is to ensure that the verification received is properly authenticated.</p> <p>Council was apprised that commission has received replies directly from the universities and colleges of various countries rather than being communicated by the concerned embassies.</p> <p>It has been observed that there are certain countries which were running 6-7 year MD programs have recently started 5 years MBBS program especially for the foreign students with lower fee structure. Whereas they issue license to practice to the MD holders only.</p> <p>It was discussed that Licensing Agencies/Authorities accredited by FAIMER and WFME may be considered for evaluation and the programs offered by institutes accredited by such licensing authorities shall be assessed for the Green List.</p>
<p><b>Decision</b></p>	<p>It was decided that the Commission shall include only those institutes in the Green list whose graduates are being granted license to practice in the host country.</p> <p>Commission will look into the details of the MD programs being offered in each country. MD programs being registered in the host country will be placed in the Green List and MBBS programs not being registered in the host country shall be placed in the Black list.</p>



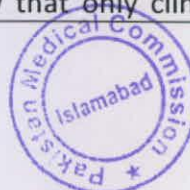
		<p>For China, the list provided by their Ministry of Education will be reconciled with WCAME (Working Committee for the Accreditation of Medical Education) list of recognized Medical Universities.</p> <p>It was decided that media campaign for awareness must be initiated by the Commission to create awareness among the stakeholders and those who are seeking admissions in the foreign colleges.</p>
<b>Agenda No.8</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Registration of students who have enrolled in Post Graduate programs which have been recognized post facto</b>
	<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Council was informed that in past PM&amp;DC registered the post graduate qualifications which were duly Notified by Ministry of NHSRC and included in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Schedule. 3<sup>rd</sup> Schedule included the list of approved and notified Post Graduate Programs listing the training institute ,the degree awarding institute and the date of notification of the program. There are cases where the students were enrolled into the Post Graduate Program offered by the institution and completed their training prior to recognition of the training institution and the degree awarding university. These programs were later recognized/ approved by PM&amp;DC.</p> <p>The case was placed before the Council to decide as a matter of policy for all such similar cases where students were enrolled in programs which have been recognized post facto.</p>
	<b>Decision</b>	The Council decided that all such cases where the students have completed their training from a training institute which was later inspected and approved by PM&DC/PMC for the training of that program may be allowed for registration if they have been granted degree by PM&DC/PMC recognized degree awarding university.
<b>Agenda Item No.8</b>		<b>Registration of MS/MD and other Post Graduate Programs pending inspection and approval</b>
	<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Numerous clinical Alternative to Post Graduate Programs and clinical Additional to Post Graduate Programs have been initiated by Universities which have not been inspected or recognized by Pakistan Medical Commission or the erstwhile PM&amp;DC. Some of these programs have been meanwhile inspected and recognized by Universities as university programs. Council determined that there are various pending cases for recognition:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognition of training institutes conducting MD/MS and are already recognized for FCPS training.</li> <li>2. Recognition of Institutions that started FCPS and</li> </ol>



	<p>MD/MS programs prior to recognition by PMC.</p> <p>3. Pending cases of recognition where the hospital applied to PM&amp;DC for recognition as postgraduate training institute.</p> <p>Council was informed that there are approximately <b>67</b> applications for recognition of MS/MD and Diploma programs by different institutions awaiting inspections and approval as their applications were not processed by erstwhile PM&amp;DC. Most of these applications are from Punjab where the institutions are under pressure to induct trainees allocated to them through central induction. Some of the units are already recognized for FCPS training. These units were granted the permission to commence MD/MS training in same discipline, subject to inspections at a future date. Idea was to inspect the programs while they were operational. There are requests for registration of fresh programs in institutions/units that have not been assessed for postgraduate training previously. These hospitals are under pressure to induct trainees allocated to them through central induction in Punjab. Moreover, in certain cases the inspection was pending while CPSP inspected the hospital and recognized a few disciplines. Their MD/MS programs were also inspected by the concerned university and approved for training. Such institutions have started FCPS programs while MD/MS programs are awaiting approval.</p>
<p><b>Decision</b></p>	<p>The Council decided that all such clinical programs and teaching hospitals where clinical training is being conducted shall be inspected in due course after the criteria for teaching hospitals is framed by the Medical &amp; Dental Academic Board and approved by the Council.</p> <p>Until such time as these programs and teaching hospitals are inspected and recognized by the Pakistan Medical Commission, the Universities may provisionally continue with such programs as university recognized programs subject to the following terms;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) If a program and its teaching hospital is recognized by the Pakistan Medical Commission post inspection, qualifications awarded to trainees of such programs irrespective of their induction or qualification, shall be recognized for purposes of licensing.</li> <li>b) If a program or its teaching hospital is not recognized by the Pakistan Medical Commission post inspection, persons having qualified from such programs shall be required to undertake a minimum further training as per terms prescribed by the Commission and duly certified by the supervisor at a recognized equivalent program and teaching</li> </ol>



		<p>hospital to have their qualification recognized.</p> <p>c) Trainees at a program which is not recognized by the Pakistan Medical Commission post inspection shall be allowed to shift to any other recognized equivalent program subject to a further training period as per terms prescribed by the Commission, to be undertaken to obtain the requisite qualification.</p> <p>The Council further decided that all clinical Post Graduate, Additional or Alternative programs must be initiated at a teaching hospital recognized by Pakistan Medical Commission. Any university/ institution seeking to initiate any new programs henceforth shall be required to intimate the Pakistan Medical Commission at the time of initiating such programs and the program and the teaching hospital shall be inspected at any time within 6 months of the program having been initiated by the Pakistan Medical Commission. During such period, any student registered in such program shall be at the risk and cost of the university / institution and shall not be eligible for any benefit of the period of training if the program is not recognized.</p> <p>Pakistan Medical Commission shall inspect both the Program and the Teaching Hospital for purposes of recognition.</p>
<b>Agenda No.10</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Registration of M.Phil Pathology on PMC License</b>
	<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Pursuant to PMC Act 2020 registration and recognition of all academic qualifications falls in the purview of Higher Education Commission and only clinical qualifications will be recognized and registered by the Commission as Post Graduate, Additional and Alternative qualifications.</p> <p>Furthermore, It was deliberated that decision regarding the privileges being offered to the doctor being appointed fall under the purview of the appointing authority /institution. Therefore it was decided that the local regulatory authorities for the laboratories and Health Care Commissions may define the required criteria for appointing pathologists at a laboratory.</p>
	<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council considered the curriculum being followed for the M.Phil pathology in various universities, it was decided that the said qualification may be categorized as academic qualification.</p> <p>It was therefore decided that M.Phil pathology will not be entered in the license keeping in view that only clinical qualifications will be</p>



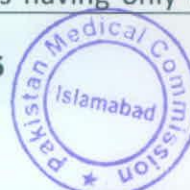
		<p>registered as Post Graduate, Additional and Alternative qualifications.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the consideration of M.Phil Pathology as an academic qualification, the employing agencies or entities may for considered reasons to be stated in writing grant supervised laboratory privileges to persons holding an M Phil Pathology or those having acquired a recognized additional clinical pathology qualification. The reasons recorded for grant of such privileges shall in the event of a complaint be open to scrutiny by the Disciplinary Committee, Healthcare Commissions or the Medical Tribunal as the case maybe.</p>
<b>Agenda No.11</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Approval of Revised Fee structure for new application forms.</b>
	<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Council was informed that fees for majority of the category of licenses were last reviewed about 10-12 years back. The fee structure has been rationalized &amp; some separate fee heads have been included in fee structure. All urgent fees have been abolished &amp; realistic timelines have been made for different categories of certificates keeping in mind their necessity. Every case will be dealt with as urgent case in future therefore no urgent fee will be charged separately. Moreover the council was informed that there is NO separate courier fees for inland addresses, however separate courier fees has been earmarked for overseas addresses.</p> <p>It was discussed that further deliberation regarding fee structure will be done by the finance committee therefore the proposed fee structure may be considered till any further recommendations by the finance committee.</p> <p>Moreover, the matter of non-practicing doctors was also considered. It was discussed that any doctor who is not into clinical practice or is working on administrative post where he/she does not need License to practice may not require to renew his/her license .In such a case the doctor may apply to PMC to freeze registration status.The doctor may apply for activation of his license when needed subject to completion of CME hours for continuing clinical practice. The Academic Board will decide the number of CME hours required for reactivation of the license in such cases. It was discussed that a separate form may be designed for the said purpose.</p>
	<b>Decision</b>	The Council provisionally approved the revised fee structure for the new application forms. It was decided that further deliberation regarding rationalization of fee structure will be done by the finance



		committee.  A new form for suspension of license to be created for doctors not opting for clinical practice and do not wish to renew their license.
<b>Agenda No.12</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>CP.No. D-1157/2019 titled Anees Ahmad etc (Student of Khairpur Medical College) vs FOP etc in the Sindh High Court, Sukkur</b>
	<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Council was apprised that Khairpur Medical College was recognized for the first time in 2015 by the erstwhile PM&amp;DC and Government of Pakistan, M/O NHR&amp;C was requested to notify. Thereafter, the college recognition process represents a chequered history with the erstwhile PM&amp;DC withdrawing its earlier letter and undertaking another inspection which the college apparently failed and where after pursuant to hearing another inspection was held by consensus in which the college was apparently again declared as failed. It was thereafter, in 2019 pursuant to the college seeking a reconsideration of the earlier decision of PM&amp;DC that the college was inspected again in 2019 and was approved for recognition in January, 2020 and allowed for admission for the session 2019-2020.</p> <p>Council was further informed that the college post approval of recognition by PM&amp;DC admitted students, of which some are the petitioners. The Court has directed to include the case in Council meeting and consider the case in accordance with law. The case is adjourned to 20th January, 2021.</p>
	<b>Decision</b>	<p>Council reviewed the consequential rights of the petitioners and other students and decided that the students of the college may be registered from the year of its first time recognition.</p> <p>Licensing department will register the students for the previous years as per the lists provided by the institution for the approved number of allocated seats.</p>
	<b>Additional Agenda item No : A</b>	<b>Request for Lowering the passing marks for MDCAT from 60% to 50 %</b>
	<b>Discussion</b>	The Council was informed that PMC has been receiving messages and requests to lower the MDCAT merit from 60% to 50%. The total number of seats for College Admissions in MBBS and BDS across Pakistan is 19,120. A total of 67,937 students have qualified the MDCAT on the minimum requirement of a 60% score in the examination. The ratio of students competing for the existing seats is already high with competition being in excess of 5 students per seat in every province/region except Sindh where the competition is



	<p>almost 2 students per seat. It was discussed that lowering the merit will jeopardize the futures of students who do meet the merit prerequisites but are not as affluent as others. The Commission being the Licensing Regulator must ensure that nothing supersedes merit in College Admissions Processes.</p> <p>It was noted that in the past merit was ignored when filling quota seats including HEC scholarships where HEC selected the candidates. It was expected that HEC would grant scholarships to those deserving students who had acquired high merit but were unable to pay fee in private colleges rather than using scholarships to induct lower merit students in public colleges which runs contrary to the entire concept of scholarship. The lowering of merit in the past coupled with allowing quota seats over and above the allocated strength also resulted in reduction of quality of education imparted by colleges.</p>
<b>Decision</b>	<p>The Council decided to uphold the tenets of meritocracy and transparency and unanimously agreed that priority needs to be given on the basis of merit and therefore the merit cannot be lowered to 50% under any circumstances.</p> <p>It was also clarified that all seats to be filled in colleges on the basis of any quota determined by the Federal or Provincial Governments including HEC nominated scholarships shall be strictly on the basis of the candidate fulfilling the minimum qualifying merit of MDCAT and FSc/HSSC and such quotas shall not under any circumstances exceed the allocated strength of each college.</p> <p>It was also clarified that quotas when determined do not require prior consent or permission of the Commission and shall be administered and enforced by the provincial or federal admitting universities however, the resulting admissions shall be scrutinized by the Commission at the time of registering the students to ensure the required merit standard is met.</p>
<b>Additional Agenda item No : B</b>	<b>Consideration of Overseas Pakistani's Fee Structure</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>In response to requests received from Overseas Pakistani's on the issue of the fee structure applicable on 'Foreign Students' the Council considered the issue and has determined as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A 'Foreign Student' for purposes of admission is defined as a student who has completed their HSSC from outside Pakistan.</li> <li>2. The term 'Foreign Student' can include a student who may be an Overseas Pakistani's having only Pakistani Nationality, Dual</li> </ol>



	<p>Nationals or Foreign Nationals.</p> <p>3. A student admitted to medical college in Pakistan as a 'Foreign Student' is required to pay the fee in USD notified for 'Foreign Students'. The Foreign Student Fee is divided in two categories; Cat A: Foreign Nationals (higher fee) and Cat B: Overseas Pakistani's including Dual Nationals (lower fee).</p>
<b>Decision</b>	<p>It was decided If the parent/guardian of an Overseas Pakistani student admitted as a 'Foreign National' moves back to Pakistan at any time after the student having been admitted to medical college, the student shall be required to pay the fee applicable to Pakistani Students in Pakistan Rupees. The conversion to the fee applicable to Pakistani Students shall apply to the immediately next fee payable as per the schedule of the college from the date the parent/guardian has moved back to Pakistan.</p> <p>The Admission Regulations (Amended) 2020-2021 shall be further amended accordingly.</p>



**Secretary**  
Pakistan Medical Commission

