

Summary Minutes from the 266th meeting of the Medical Council, 21st July 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Professor Kieran Murphy (President)
Dr Richard Brennan
Mr Brendan Broderick
Ms Katherine Bulbulia
Professor Gerard Bury
Ms Anne Carrigy
Dr Regina Connolly
Ms Mary Culliton
Professor Anthony Cunningham
Professor Paul Finucane
Dr Pauline Kane

Dr Deirdre Madden
Mr Frank McManus
Dr John Monaghan
Dr Daniel O'Hare
Dr David O'Keeffe
Dr John O'Mullane
Ms Margaret Murphy
Ms Marie Murray
Professor William Powderly
Professor James Slevin

APOLOGIES

Mr Jon Billings
Dr Anna Clarke (Vice-President)
Professor Damien McLoughlin
Professor Diarmuid O'Donoghue

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Marcus Balfe (Head of Finance & Acting CEO)
Mr William Kennedy (Head of Professional Standards & Legal Adviser)
Dr Anne Keane (Head of Education & Training)
Ms Úna O'Rourke (Head of Registration)
Ms Lisa Molloy (Secretary to Council)
Mr Iain Mathews (Finance)
Dr Paul Kavanagh (Head of Professional Competence)
Ms Finola O'Brien (Professional Standards)
Mr John Sidebottom (Professional Standards)
Mr Paul Lyons (Corporate Services)
Mr David Holland, S.C.

Minutes of the 265th meeting held on 1st June 2010

1. The minutes of the 265th meeting held on 1st June 2010 were approved subject to the following amendment:-

Item 3 – The second paragraph of the minute in relation to a registered medical practitioner was amended to read as follows: “---, accompanied by her legal advisers, attended the meeting and made submissions to Council”.

2. The summary minutes of the 265th meeting were approved.

Committees and Working Groups

Report of the Professional Development Committee, 29th June 2010

1. Council approved the draft of the Section 88 and 89 Rules which had been put to limited stakeholder consultation.
2. Council approved the Amended PRES Rules.
3. Council accepted the recommendation of the PDC and approved the Report of the Visit to the University of Limerick held on 13th and 14th May 2010. Council agreed that provisional approval of the UL programme be continued.
4. Council formally approved a number of additional intern training posts.
5. Having noted the considerable undertaking in terms of Council resources in relation to the recognition of specialties, Council approved the imposition of a fee on applicant bodies.
6. Council approved Criteria for Approval of Intern Training Networks.
7. Council approved an exemption from the PRES exam to facilitate the temporary registration of non-EU trainee General Practitioners wishing to take part in exchange programmes.
8. The remaining items in this report were noted.

Report of the Standards in Practice Committee, 15th July 2010

1. Council approved a number of recommendations by the Committee to refuse applications for registration to the Specialist Division of the Register.
2. Council approved a recommendation by the Committee to refer a matter of alleged fraudulent behaviour by an applicant for General Registration to An Garda Síochána and the Department of Health and Children.

3. Council noted the responsibility for maintaining the Specialist Division of the Register. Council agreed that the Registration Working Group would examine the procedures used by Training Bodies to examine applications and provide recommendations on the standardisation of requirements for specialist registration.
4. The remaining items in this report were noted.

Report of the Nominations Sub-Committee

1. Council noted the report of the Nominations Sub-Committee.

President's Business

1. Council approved the draft Statement of Strategy and noted that the document would be sent to NALA (National Adult Literacy Agency) for Plain English testing before forwarding the final draft to the Department of Health and Children prior to publication.
2. Council agreed to engage the service of an external project worker to research and draft a policy document on guidance on doctor-patient personal boundaries.
3. Council discussed proposed changes to the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 and agreed to submit a summary document on the proposed changes to the Department of Health and Children.
4. Council noted that Dr Eamann Breatnach would become the Medical Council's nominee to the board of An Bord Altranais.
5. The remaining items in this report were noted.

CEO's Business

CEO's Report

1. Council considered the Report of the CEO which provided updates on a number of operational matters including:
 - The backlog in applications for specialist registration has been reduced considerably.
 - A combination of externally-delivered and in-house inductions is being devised for accreditation of assessors.

- Dr Paul Kavanagh took up his position as Head of Professional Competence on 8th June 2010.
 - As at 9th July 2010, 187 complaints had been received marking a significant increase from 2009.
2. The remaining items in this report were noted.