

Summary Minutes of the Medical Council meeting

11th & 12th December 2013

A meeting of the Medical Council was held at 12:30hrs on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December 2013 in Kingram House, Kingram Place, Dublin 2.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Professor Freddie Wood (President)
Dr John Barragry
Dr Anthony Breslin
Ms Katharine Bulbulia
Mr Declan Carey
Ms Anne Carrigy
Dr Sean Curran
Dr Audrey Dillon (Vice President)
Dr Rita Doyle
Ms Mary Duff
Professor Fidelma Dunne

Dr Bairbre Golden
Dr Ruairi Hanley
Mr Sean Hurley
Professor Alan Johnson
Professor Mary Leader
Mr John Nisbet
Dr Colm O'Herlihy
Dr Michael Ryan
Dr Consilia Walsh
Ms Catherine Whelan

Apologies

Ms Marie Kehoe O'Sullivan
Councillor Sally Mulready
Ms Margaret Murphy
Ms Cornelia Stuart

In attendance

Ms Caroline Spillane (CEO)
Mr William Kennedy, (Director of Regulation)
Dr Paul Kavanagh (Director of Professional Development and Practice)
Mr Marcus Balfe (Director of Finance & ICT)
Ms. Lisa Molloy (Secretary to Council)
Mr Philip Brady (Head of Registration)
Dr Anne Keane (Head of Education & Training)
Ms Niamh Muldoon (Solicitor, Regulation)
Ms Aisling Malone (Solicitor, Regulation)
Ms Jan Fitzpatrick (Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services)
Ms Lorna Farren, (Communications Manager)
Ms. Wendy Kennedy (Accountant, Finance)

Note:

A Private Session was taken prior to the commencement of the Council meeting. Following completion of this session, the Council meeting was then formally commenced.

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th and 8th November and the meeting held on 22nd November 2013 were agreed and signed.

CEO's Business

Council members approved the CEO report which provided an update to members on a number of operational matters including the following:

- A micro-site specifically for medical students is being developed. A soft launch is planned to invite key stakeholders to feed back to Council their experience with the micro-site.
- A mobile responsive site is also under development which will allow users to search for doctors through various media including Smart Phones and iPad minis.
- Council was advised of the revised Health and Safety Statement.

President's Business

Council was advised of the proposed Learning and Development Session planned for January 2013. It is intended that the session will take into account recent High Court Judgements and reflect how these will impact on future decision-making.

It was proposed that the session would take place at 8.00am on Tuesday 28th January 2014 immediately prior to the next Council meeting. The President encouraged all Council members to attend this session.

Committees and Working Groups

Strategy Working Group

Council considered the draft Statement of Strategy 2014 – 2018. Council noted that this is a clear and well drafted document which shows the intended outcomes over the period and how these outcomes can be measured. Council approved the draft Statement of Strategy 2014 – 2018 to be sent to the Minister for Health for consideration.

Ethics and Professionalism Committee (EPC)

Council approved the report of the EPC which included the following item:

- Council noted that the Committee had agreed that Paragraph 62 of the 7th edition of the Ethical Guide, relating to Telemedicine would be more appropriately reviewed in the context of the overall review of the entire Ethical Guide.

Registration and Continuing Practice Committee (RCPC)

Council approved the report of the RCPC meeting which included the following item:

- Council accepted the recommendation in relation to the conditions applied to a doctor

- Council was advised of the current role of the Health Declaration question on the Annual Retention form. The Committee agreed that it is important to retain this question in its current form.

Education, Training and Professional Development Committee (ETPDC)

Council approved the report of the ETPDC which included the following items:

- Council noted the Committee Terms of Reference and Sub-Committee proposals and welcomes the intention to involve students and trainees via a reference group.
- Council considered the proposed guidelines on Non-Exchequer funding which will fulfil Council's obligations under Section 88(8) of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. Council approved the Guidelines and noted that compliance with these guidelines will be monitored via the annual return process.
- Council noted the response of Perdana University – Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to Council's report of the most recent accreditation visit.
- Council noted the progress which has been made in relation to new and aspirant specialties – these include Intensive Care Medicine, Neonatology and Pain Medicine.

Nominations and Development Committee

Council approved the report of the Nominations and Development Committee which included the following item:

Council accepted the recommendations of the NDC to approve the nominations listed below.

- Jacinta Morgan – Education, Training and Professional Development Committee
- Mary Holohan – Registration and Continuing Practice Committee
- Anne Pardy - Registration and Continuing Practice Committee
- Joseph Duignan – Preliminary Proceedings Committee

Council was advised that the Chair of the Fitness to Practise Committee, Dr Ryan, was taking a short sabbatical from January to April 2014 and that Mr Nisbet has agreed to act an interim Chair in his absence.

Audit, Strategy and Risk Committee (ASRC)

Council approved the report of the Audit, Strategy and Risk Committee which included the following item:

- Council was advised that an ICT Working Group would be established and the proposed membership would be advised to the Nominations & Development Committee at its next meeting.
- Council noted that further to recent publicity regarding top-ups to the salaries of senior executives in the health sector the CEO informed the Committee that her salary was

approved by the Minister for Health prior to her appointment and that there are no additions/top ups/bonuses in any form paid to the CEO or to any of the Executive.

- Council was updated on the report by D'Arcy Lynch on the Corporate Governance review carried out in October 2013. Council was advised that there were no significant issues raised and the ASRC are satisfied with the report. All recommendations are being actioned by the Executive and will be resolved by June 2014.
- The Terms of Reference for the various Committees were considered by the ASRC and confirmed at its meeting. Council approved the Terms of Reference.

Media Log

- This item was noted by Council

Date & Time of next meeting

Council noted that the next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th January at 12:30hrs & Wednesday 29th January 2014 at 08:30hrs