



Minute of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Royal College of Physicians held on 29 January 2024

Present

Professor Andrew Elder, President, in the Chair

Dr A H M Hafizur Rahman	Professor E Hughes	Dr G Payne
Dr A Afreen	Dr S Huica	Dr S Pound
Dr A O Akinkugbe	Dr J Irving	Dr M M Prabhu
Professor R A Al-Obeidi	Dr N Jadoon	Dr W Qureshi
Dr A Ambali	Dr A Jafri	Dr J Rawat
Professor J Ashton	Professor B Kirby	Professor W Reid
Dr K Baker	Dr M Kroese	Dr W Reith
Dr B P Bergman	Dr A K K Kyaw	Dr P Sadarmin
Professor S Bhandari	Dr I Laurenson	Professor R A Schwartz
Dr P Brennan	Dr O Lloyd	Dr G Shabo
Professor H Cameron	Dr S MacKenzie	Professor M Shameem
Dr T S Cheng	Dr N Martin	Dr S Siddique
Dr J Craig	Dr A Masud	Dr K N Siddiqui
Dr J Craig	Dr J K McAlpine	Dr P Smail
Dr E Cunningham McKenna	Professor G Mead	Dr R G Smith
Dr L Dawson	Dr P C Midgley	Professor M W J Strachan
Dr N Dewhurst	Mr I Milne	Professor V Subramanian
Dr A Dey	Dr D Mital	Professor C Swainson
Professor V K Dixit	Dr C S M Muirhead	Dr M Thomas
Professor J Drife	Dr T Myint	Professor A Thomas OBE
Dr C Evans	Dr P Narayanan	Professor N Turner
Dr N D C Finlayson	Professor J O Ogunbiyi	Dr S Waqas
Dr R Finnie	Dr E Ohiozua	Dr K D White
Dr L H Francescutti	Professor A Patel	Dr G Zangana
Dr E Hegarty	Dr G Paterson	

In attendance

Mr K A J McKellar, CEO
Ms L Paterson, Director of Global Engagement
Mr K Pinkerton, Clerk to the College
Ms L Devine, Governance Adviser

1 Welcome

- The President, before continuing the business of the meeting, welcomed Fellows in person and online.
- It was noted that there was a quorum present. It was further noted that the requisite majority to make alterations to the Laws is 2/3 of Fellows present and voting.
- The President explained the voting process.

2 Proposed changes to the Laws

Motion 1

It was resolved by the requisite majority, 51 for, none against, to define "Membership" as those who are "Collegiate Members" and clarify other classes of membership as follows:-

1. In Chapter 1 "Of the College and Common Seal"

a. In law 1:-

- i. Add the letter "a" before the word Fellows and the letter "b" before the word "Members".
- ii. After the word "Members" add the words "as defined in Law 2 of this Chapter 1".

b. Delete Law 2 replace it with the following Law 2:-

"Members shall be Collegiate Members admitted under Chapter IV".

c. Delete Law 3 in its entirety and re-number Laws 4 – 8 as Laws 3 – 7.

d. In Law 3 as renumbered:-

- i. Replace the word "elect" as it appears on line 2 with "and elect and admit Fellows and".
- ii. Delete the words "and grant Licences and Diplomas".

2. In Chapter III "Of Members":

a. Rename the Chapter as "Of Members of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom"

b. Delete Laws 1 and 2 in their entirety and renumber Laws 3 to 11 as Laws 1 to 9.

c. Delete the words "Members of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (MRCP Edin)" before Law 1 as re-numbered.

d. Delete the subheading "Members of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (MRCP Edin.)" and Laws 9 – 11 as re-numbered.

3. Rename Chapter IV "of Collegiate Members" and:

Delete Law 1 in its entirety and replace it with the following Law 1:-

"A holder of the Diploma of MRCP(UK) or MRCPCH on acceptance of their application to the Secretary of the College and having ceded to the Declaration (Appendix No 1) and paid the required fee is entitled to be admitted a Collegiate Member and have their name placed on the List of Collegiate Members maintained in the College (Chapter 1, Law 2)."

4. Throughout the Laws where the context suggests, replace the word "Member" or "Members" with "Collegiate Member" or "Collegiate Members".

Motion 2

It was **resolved** by the requisite majority, 53 for, none against, to amend the current Laws to reflect current practice regarding the admission of Fellows as follows:-

1. Amend Chapter II "Of Fellows" as follows:

- a. Delete existing Law 2 and replace it with the following Law 2:-

"The Council shall determine the criteria for the award of Fellowship".

- b. In Law 3:-

- i. delete the word "member" as it appears in line 6 and replace it with the word "candidate".
- ii. delete the sixth sentence being, "Both the Fellowship Committee and the Fellows of the Council shall give special attention to the qualifications, professional standing, appointments and contributions to the literature of each nominee."
- iii. delete the word "Members" as it appears in the last sentence and replace it with the word "candidates".

- c. Delete existing Laws 7, 8 and 9 and re-number laws 10 – 17 as Laws 7 - 13.

- c. In Law 8 as re-numbered:-

- i. Delete the word "Membership" as it appears in line 3 and replace it with the words "Diploma of MRCP (UK)".
- ii. Delete the words "if their election as Members be if these are" as they appear on line 4 and replace them with the words "if these are".
- iii. At the end add the sentence:- "Fellows elected on the same day who do not have MRCP (UK) or MRCPCH will be listed after those with MRCP (UK) or MRCPCH according to the date of their original qualification in medicine".

2. In the "Note" that follows Law 21 of Chapter XV of Motions, Laws and Protests, delete the words, "Election to Honorary Fellowship 9/10".

Motion 3

It was **resolved** by the requisite majority, 51 for, 2 against, to amend the current Laws to permit Collegiate Members to use MRCP Edin instead of MRCP as follows:-

To rename Chapter IV Of College Members, delete Law 3 in its entirety and replace it with the following Law 3:

Collegiate Members shall be entitled to use the post-nominal MRCP (Edin.) in addition to MRCP(UK) and to other privileges as shall be determined by Council.

Motion 4

It was **resolved** by the requisite majority, 54 for, one against, to update references to Licentiates and Diplomates by making the following amendments:-

1. Delete the words "Licentiates" and "Diplomates" as they appear throughout the Laws.
2. Delete the existing Chapter V in its entirety and replace it with the following Chapter V

"Chapter V of Licentiates and Diplomates

1. All Licentiates and Diplomates who were elected and admitted prior to the date that these Laws take effect shall continue to enjoy the rights and privileges under the Laws in force immediately prior to these Laws taking effect."

Motion 5

It was **resolved** by the requisite majority, 52 for, one against, to add the role of Dean of Training by making the following amendments:-

In Chapter XII "Of the Power and Duties of the Office-Bearers" to add a new Law as follows:

"&14. THE DEAN OF TRAINING

1. The Dean of Training, who shall be the Convenor of the Training Committee, shall be responsible for all training related activities of the College subject to the control of the Council."

Motions 6-10

It was **resolved** by the requisite majority to amend the current Laws to update the members of Council and to amend the current constitution of Council as set out in Chapter 10, Law 1 to include the following as members:-

The Secretary and the Treasurer [Motion 6], 53 for, none against.

The Dean of Education, The Dean of Examinations, the Dean of Quality Improvement and the Dean of Training [Motion 7], 52 for, one against.

The four Trustees appointed by Council and under the Royal Charter and Chapter XV&7 of these Laws [Motion 8], 55 for, 3 against.

The Chairs of the Lay Advisory Committee and the Equality and Diversity Committee [Motion 9], 50 for, 2 against.

An additional elected Fellow increasing the number from fourteen to fifteen [Motion 10], 53 for, 3 against.

Motion 11

It was **resolved** by the requisite majority, 56 for, none against, to update Council in line with current practice and on legal advice by making the following amendments to Chapter 10, Law 1:-

a. That the word "geographical" as it appears in Law 1 is deleted.

b. That the following sentence is added at the end of Law 1:

"Members of the Council shall be charity trustees for the purposes of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 as amended from time to time."

c. That the following paragraph as it appears in Law 3 is deleted:

"Only Fellows engaged in paediatric practice or retired from it and paying a UK subscription or exempted in perpetuity from payment upon election (Cap. II, Laws 6 and 8) shall be entitled to nominate and vote in the paediatric constituency"

d. Delete the following words as they appear under the heading "Constituency Area Number of Seats", "J One Fellow working in Paediatric Practice 1" and re-letter constituencies K – L, J – M.

Motion 12

It was **resolved** by the requisite majority, 52 for, 2 against, to rename "Promissory Obligation" as "Declaration" and to delete references to "Promissory Obligation". The words "Promissory Obligation" would be replaced with the word "Declaration" wherever they appear throughout the Laws.

Motion 13

It was **resolved** by the requisite majority, 55 for, none against, to update the provisions relating to censure of Fellows and Members as follows:-

a. In Law 1 of, Chapter VIII "of Censure, Suspension and Expulsion of Fellows", after the words "of the College" as they appear in line 2, add the words "or to have breached the terms of the Declaration (Appendix No1)".

b. In Chapter IX of Censure, Suspension and Expulsion of Collegiate Members

i. Add the words "Fellows and" after the words "on the recommendation of a Meeting of" as they appear on line 2 of Law 1.

ii. Add the words "or to have breached the terms of the Declaration (Appendix No1)" after the words "rule or regulation of the College" as they appear in line 3 of Law 1. Delete Law 2 and renumber Laws 3 – 10, Laws 2 – 9.

iii. Delete the first sentence of Law 2 re-numbered and delete the words "Laws 1 and 2" and replace them with "Law 1".

iv. Delete the number "2" and replace it with the number "1" as it appears in Law 3 as renumbered.

Motion 14

It was **resolved** by the requisite majority, 51 for, 3 against, to make other minor and consequential amendments to align the Laws and current practice as follows:-

In Chapter XIV "Of the Order of Business":-

- i. add the words "of the College" after the word "Meetings" as it appears in the subheading &1.
 - ii. delete the words "Fellows of" as they appear in the subheading &4. Extraordinary Meetings of the Fellows of the College.
- a. In Law 20 of Chapter XV of Motions, Laws and Protests delete the words "except on the ground that their narrative of res gestae is inaccurate or that the Meeting" and replace them with the words "except on the grounds that either (i) their narrative of things done or transacted is inaccurate or (ii) that the Meeting".
 - b. Replace the word "obtemper" and replace it with the words "comply with" as it appears throughout the Laws.
 - c. In the Appendix, delete No. III – No. VI and renumber No VII No III.
 - d. In Appendix No III as renumbered, delete the words "Collegiate Member," as they appear in the subheading and Declaration.
 - e. Update references to numbering and lettering throughout and make any consequential or grammatical changes as may be required as a result of the changes made.

2 **Closing Remarks**

The President said that he was grateful for the attendance and asked colleagues present to appreciate the complexities inherent in considering the requirements of the Royal Charter, a large raft of associated Laws, and the requirements of contemporary charity law and governance. He noted that Council is in the process of reviewing that whole interaction and will bring details of that review to Fellows and Members at a later date.