

## **Minutes MCFD Annual General Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at the Professional Centre, Sliema Road, Gzira at 20:00hrs.**

**Full Members present:** Dr David Sammut; Dr Jean Pierre Cauchi; Dr Ian Psaila; Dr Mark Grima; Dr Anthony Azzopardi

**Associate Members present:** nil

**Board Members present:** Dr Edward Zammit, Dr Dorothy Zammit, Dr Jason Bonnici, Dr Anne Marie Scerri

**Office Secretary:** Ms. Louise Agius – minutes writer

**Total number of attendees in plenary:** 5

**Members eligible to vote present:** 5

### **1. Reading of minutes of previous AGM**

The minutes of AGM 2021, covering the period 2020 and 2021, including amendments/corrections received by members, were forwarded to MCFD members in the call for this AGM covering the year 2022. Dr Jason Bonnici read the minutes of AGM 2021.

### **2. Amendments and approval of minutes**

*Dr Anthony Azzopardi and Dr David Sammut proposed and seconded respectively the motion for approval.*

*A vote for the approval of the AGM 2021 minutes was taken as follows:*

*In favour: 5*

The minutes were thus approved.

### **3. Matters Arising**

Nil

### **4. Secretary's Report**

Dr Jason Bonnici read the Secretary's reports for 2022.

#### ***Comments:***

Dr Anthony Azzopardi encouraged participation in entities such as EQUIP as it is of benefit professionally and personally.

Dr Anthony Azzopardi, Dr Edward Zammit, Dr Dorothy Zammit and Dr Jason Bonnici aired possibilities on how to address troublesome council members – the change in statute proposed is one step looking forward, another is asking legal advice about claiming the fines and extra expenses incurred by the College due to their actions, and thirdly listing both as not in good standing with the MCFD for a number of years. The members present showed agreement with these 3 steps.

Dr Ian Psaila aired the issue of members of MCFD Council who are members of other entities, which can create conditions of conflict of interest. The plenary opined that this does not merit exclusion from active participation from MCFD roles, but acknowledged that conflict of interest can arise in some circumstances. Dr David Sammut suggested that members of the Council are to declare any conflict of interest at the start of their term.

*Dr Anthony Azzopardi and Dr Mark Grima proposed and seconded respectively the motion for approval.*

*A vote for the approval of the Secretary's report was taken as follows:*

*In favour: 5*

As such the Secretary's report was approved.

## **5. President's Report**

Dr Edward Zammit read the President's report.

### ***Comments:***

Dr Anthony Azzopardi asked more information about the costs incurred in having the JMCFD as an online version and details were given by Dr Dorothy Zammit regarding publishing costs.

Dr Anthony Azzopardi asked how medical students of UoM and Bart's can be introduced to family medicine. Dr Anne Marie Scerri described how they used to be an initiation session to family medicine in the Foundation years, that this stopped a few years ago and that it would be a good idea to prompt the relevant stakeholders to start having it again.

Dr Anthony Azzopardi asked whether government contributes to the Summative Exam of the Specialist Training Programme in Family Medicine. Dr Edward Zammit explained that the Department for Health covers the costs of payment of GP Trainers, GP Trainees and the Programme Co-ordinators, as well as previously provided the Qormi Health Centre for carrying out the Clinical Skills Assessment.

*Dr Ian Psaila and Dr Jean Pierre Cauchi proposed and seconded respectively the motion for approval of the President's Report.*

*A vote for the approval of the President's report was taken as follows:*

*In favour: 5*

As such the President's report was approved.

## **6. Treasurer's Report/Accounts**

Dr Dorothy Zammit read the Treasurer's report and presented the Accounts of MCFD.

### ***Comments:***

Dr Edward Zammit, Dr Dorothy Zammit, Dr Ian Psaila and Dr Anthony Azzopardi all spoke about the consequences of the actions of council members who do not comply with what they are obliged to do, such as fines for the organisation, lack of compliance with national entities, losing out on funds and putting the College in a bad light with its members, prospective members and national entities. They called for this to be rectified, including if necessary to seek legal advice.

Dr Edward Zammit and Dr Dorothy Zammit explained how often the mentioned council members were asked to address the situation and detailed the financial costs incurred for their actions.

Dr Dorothy Zammit explained how efforts are done to decrease the costs of carrying out Continued Medical Education events, as the expenses have risen substantially in the past years; these efforts include looking out for alternative venues and doing hybrid sessions. Other options include doing some sessions totally online and doing some events at the Hall of the Malta Federation of Professional Bodies with outside catering. All alternatives will be exhausted prior to considering raising the membership fees.

Dr Anne Marie Scerri noted that since the introduction of hybrid and online sessions for the CME events, more members are applying for the CPD Accreditation Scheme.

Dr Jason Bonnici pointed out how MICROSOFT TEAMS has changed its way of doing things and it would end up in MCFD having to set up a business account. On the other hand, this might mean that it would be possible to record a CME event for later viewing, something requested by members.

Incidentally some members asked if the AGM could be available online too, and the plenary approved of this possibility.

*Dr Ian Psaila and Dr Mark Grma proposed and seconded respectively the motion for approval.*

*A vote for the approval of the Treasurer's report was taken as follows:*

*In favour: 5*

As such the Treasurer's report was approved.

**7. Approval of Accounts.**

Accounts approved unanimously.

**8. Appointment of Accountant/Auditor**

Mr Rolan Micallef reappointed as auditor.

*Dr Anthony Azzopardi left the meeting at this stage.*

**9. Appointment of Electoral Commissioners as per statute**

Dr Jurgen Abela, Dr Mark Grima, Dr Stephanie Palmier are appointed as Electoral Commission members, with Dr Ian Gauci and Dr Stephanie Frendo as reserves.

**10. Appointment of Subcommittee on Revision of statutes**

Dr Jean Pierre Cauchi, Dr John Peter Gauci and Dr Jason Bonnici re-appointed on Subcommittee on Revision of Statutes.

**11. Proposals for amendment of statute**

A Proposal comes from the Subcommittee on Revision of Statutes as a result of proceedings described in the Annual Report.

**Under the current statutes:**

8.5. *The office of Member of Council shall be vacated in any of the following events:*

8.5.1. *If the member resigns in writing, and such resignation is accepted by Council.*

8.5.2. *If the member is found guilty of serious professional misconduct by the Medical Council of Malta.*

8.5.3. *If the member is absent from meetings of the Council for six months without justification.*

8.5.4. *If the member ceases to be a member of the college.*

8.5.5. *If the member is removed pursuant to ordinance 8.6.*

8.6. *During the General Meeting, the College may remove from office any member of the Council before the expiry of his/her period of office by a simple majority vote.*

### **Proposal for addition of 8.5.6. to the statutes**

- 8.5. *The office of Member of Council shall be vacated in any of the following events:*
- 8.5.1. *If the member resigns in writing, and such resignation is accepted by Council.*
  - 8.5.2. *If the member is found guilty of serious professional misconduct by the Medical Council of Malta.*
  - 8.5.3. *If the member is absent from meetings of the Council for six months without justification.*
  - 8.5.4. *If the member ceases to be a member of the college.*
  - 8.5.5. *If the member is removed pursuant to ordinance 8.6.*
  - 8.5.6. *If the member does not comply with the legal requirements emanating from national entities that regulate Voluntary Organisations, such as the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations and the Malta Business Registry.***

8.6. *During the General Meeting, the College may remove from office any member of the Council before the expiry of his/her period of office by a simple majority vote.*

Discussion: All present agreed with the proposal.

In favour: 4

Against: 0

As such the change in statutes was approved.

The plenary commissioned the subcommittee for revision of statutes to consider another point under 8.5. if the member is found guilty of serious criminal offence.

The plenary discussed the proposal that members of the Council are to declare any conflict of interest at the start of their term. This was approved unanimously.

The plenary discussed that Dr Jacob Vella and Dr Gianluca Bezzina are to be considered not in good standing with the Malta College of Family Doctors. The plenary decided that the term would be for 10 years. This was approved unanimously.

### **12. Appointment of Board of Fellows**

The Board of Fellows will be set up in 2024 to propose new Fellows of the Malta College of Family Doctors. The Council will trigger the proceedings.

#### **Other matters:**

Nil

The AGM was concluded at 22.40 hours.