

Standing Committees

Review Committee's Report

The new Council under our new President, Professor Fok Tai Fai who was elected at the last Annual General Meeting invited the following members to serve in the new Review Committee for a term of two years:

Dr. TSAO Yen Chow (Chairman)
Dr. CHANG Kan, Jane (Hon. Secretary)
Dr. CHENG Man Yung
Dr. CHIU Lee Lee, Lily
Dr. KO Yiu Shum, Paul
Professor YEUNG Chap Yung
Professor YUEN Man Pan, Patrick

No Council Member had been included. The Council had earlier resolved that 'membership of the Review Committee should be independent and should not be taking part in any decision making issues of the College Council and the Standing Committees'

The Council also resolved that 'the terms of reference of the Review Committee should be widened to include appeals on matters relevant to the functioning of the College' and therefore entrusted the new Review Committee to study the matter and come out with a recommendation to be endorsed by the Council.

The new Review Committee met on 7th June, 2004, with Professor T. F. Fok, President, and Dr. S. N. Wong, Hon. Secretary of the College as invited participants.

The following are the salient points agreed upon in the meeting:

1. The Review Committee should be a statutory body to handle appeals and complaints.
2. The decision of the Review Committee should be limited to granting or denying the request of the appellant or the complainant, and such decision should be based entirely on technical grounds. The Review Committee would not be in the position to consider the merits or otherwise of the rules and regulations of the College, nor to consider or comment on the intention behind the rules and regulations.

3. The Review Committee has the right and authority to access all relevant information or to summon the responsible parties for such information.
4. While acknowledging that the Council has the final say in all matters, it was hoped that the Council would normally accept the recommendation of the Review Committee unless there was documented evidence to support a different conclusion which was not available to the Review Committee at the time of making the decision. If the Council should refute the recommendation because of the additional information, the case should be passed back to the Review Committee for re-consideration and the additional information provided. To avoid conflict of interest, the Council members concerned with the appeal or complaint, or personally related to the appellant or complainant should abstain from voting. To increase transparency of the College, the recommendations should best be made known to all College Fellows.
5. The following 5 areas were identified to be more likely to give rise to appeals and complaints:
 - i) Intermediate Examination
 - ii) Exit Assessment
 - iii) Accreditation of training in General Paediatrics
 - iv) Accreditation of Subspecialty Training
 - v) Accreditation of Overseas Training

Appeals and complaints would still arise when rules and regulations are already set for the following reasons:

- i) the wording may not be clear and therefore open to different interpretation
 - ii) information may not be made available at the crucial time.
6. Some modification to the Bye-Laws of the College was deemed necessary and a draft had been put to the Council for consideration.
7. Suggestions on the mechanisms for making an appeal or complaint and the process for dealing with such had also been forwarded to the Council for consideration.

Dr. TSAO Yen-chow
Chairman, Review Committee