



Pakistan Engineering Council

(Constituted under Pakistan Engineering Council Act, 1976 enacted by Parliament)

Ataturk Avenue (East),
G-5/2, Islamabad

PEC/AD/Policy/DL -77(Gen.)/2016

August 19, 2016

To:

All Vice Chancellors/Rectors/
Head of Universities/HEIs in Pakistan.

Subject: POLICY DECISIONS MADE BY PEC EA&QEC/EAB IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION AND ADHERENCE TO ALL HEIs

Dear Sir,

1. I am directed to convey that the subject matter was discussed under agenda item No. 10 (b) in PEC 77th EA&QEC/EAB meeting and decision taken by the committee is as below:-

"All policy decisions made by EA&QEC/EAB will be notified, uploaded & conveyed by accreditation department to all HEIs and on PEC website for information and adherence".

2. In the light of above, policy decisions from PEC 77th to 61st EA&QEC/EAB meetings are enclosed for information and compliance, please.

With regards,


Engr. Osaf Mahmood Malik
Deputy Registrar (Accr.)

Encl: PEC 77th to 61st EA&QEC Policy Decisions (Page 1 to 11)

Copy to:

1. Chair/Convener EA&QEC/EAB
2. PS to Chairman/Registrar PEC
3. All PEC Regional/Liaison Offices
4. AM MIS, PEC HQ Islamabad

With the request to upload policy document on PEC website, as per decision of EA&QEC/EAB, Please

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**POLICY DECISIONS MADE BY PEC EA&QEC/EAB FROM 77TH TO 61ST MEETINGS FOR
INFORMATION AND ADHERENCE OF ALL HEIs.**

1: **Ref: PEC 77TH EA&QEC/EAB MEETING HELD ON 23RD JUNE, 2016**

a. Agenda Item No. 4 a (i):

The EA&QEC/EAB endorsed/approved the following minimum criteria/policy for its implementation in all subsequent accreditation visits:

- (1) Only one year accreditation will be recommended for first time accreditation cases.
- (2) Minimum number of 08 faculty members (at least one PhD per section intake in the relevant discipline) will be required for a section of 40 students and 10 faculty members for a section of 50 students.
- (3) The Institute must implement the single intake policy of PEC at least in the last enrollment/admission as a compliance before applying any change of scope (increase in intake) process.
- (4) To qualify for accreditation, overall qualifying marks for both sections (A&B) should not be less than 50%, as per Chapter 7 of Accreditation Manual-2007. In case of less than 50% marks particularly in any of the following criteria/attributes, the program may be disqualified for accreditation.
 - (a) Faculty (Section-3)
 - (b) Labs and allied staff (Section-5)
 - (c) Library (Section-6)
 - (d) Standard and quality of instruction (Section-7)
 - (e) Students (Section-8)

b. Agenda item No. 4 a (ii) : Rationalization of Intake Pattern/Strength.

The EA&QEC/EAB was briefed as per the working paper/recommendations of moderation/review sub-committee that various models have been observed/being followed on the student's intake strength ranging from 30 to more than 60 per section in different HEIs, which is creating confusion and mis-statement at EAD level to maintain uniform records. The Moderation Sub-Committee is of the view that this practice should be rationalized and recommended that a uniform model of 50 students per section and its multiples may be adopted from intake 2016 onwards in engineering programs in all the institutions. In case the strength is to be increased from existing 30 or 40 to 50 students, the faculty must be increased to bring the student teacher ratio as 20:1 for the programs already in operation.

After deliberation, EA&QEC/EAB unanimously took the decision that maximum allowable class size is 50 students depending upon the capacity of class room, teaching-learning aids, faculty availability, to maintain student ratio of 20:1. In certain situations, if any institute has limited resources, the class size will be 40. If student teacher ratio is above 20:1, penalty will be imposed on such institution as approved by the Governing Body.

If any HEI increases intake upto allowable size of 50 students& its multiple, it will be conveyed to PEC alongwith evidence of meeting the above mentioned attributes/capacity.

2. **Ref: PEC 76TH EA&QEC/EAB MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 26,**
2016 a. Agenda Item No. 3 & 4 b (ii)

It was unanimously decided that the engineering program must not be started until the provision of required NOC from Governor/Patron as per the University's Act/Charter.

However, in case an established HEI (as a legal entity) intends to launch an engineering program as per the provision of their Act/Charter and with prior approval of their relevant statutory forum(s), PEC may grant the green signal provisionally upon successful assessment through Zero Visit process. However, accreditation requests of these programs will not be entertained until the required NOCs and other legal & codal formalities are completed as per requirements of their Act/Charters and PEC regulations.

b. Agenda Item No. 7: Clarity on the Intake batch (Fall/Spring or with year) for Sindh Region

The house was apprised that following three different intake prefixes are being practiced by the HEIs in Sindh region which creates confusion at the time of publishing SRO and PEC registration:

- i. NED-UET Karachi uses the prefix e.g. 2015-16 etc.
- ii. MUET Jamshoro uses the prefix e.g. Fall/Spring 2016 etc.
- iii. Isra University Hyderabad uses the prefix e.g. Batch 10 etc.

After deliberation, it was decided that a uniform prefix such as Fall<year> be specified by all HEIs in Sindh region (maintaining single intake per year). For this purpose, Accreditation Department of PEC will consult with the VCs of Engineering Universities in Sindh region to reach to a final conclusion on uniform prefix and will be reported to EA&QEC/EAB.

c. Agenda Item No. 9(a): Policy Decision on the Admission Equivalence Criteria

As per Article 2(a)(ii) of regulations for engineering education HEI offering engineering programs is authorized to assess the eligibility of a candidate for admission in an engineering program having Pre-engineering qualification at intermediate level. In this regard, the concerned HEI shall issue an equivalence certificate to the candidate without violating the law of the land and jurisdiction of other institutions or IBCC as the case may be. The registration department will also accept the equivalence certificates issued by HEI's concerned if it is not in contradiction of prevailing laws in the country.

d. Agenda Item No. 13: Identification of Campus-wise Enrolment of Students for Each program of an HEIs for the purpose of PEC Registration

The house was apprised that it has been noticed / observed by the Registration Department that few HEIs are operating their constituent campuses including affiliated institutions, and awarding degrees without campus identification (code) on the students' registration/enrolment data, which is creating considerable technical problems at the time of PEC registration. Despite reminder/request to rectify the situation, the compliance is not made in this regard.

After deliberation, the house decided that all HEIs shall be advised that separate ID/Code including name of affiliated or constituent campus shall be written on the transcript and provisional certificate in order to ensure transparency and clarity.

e. **Agenda Item 14 No. (2) : Any other Item**

Some members pointed out that the policies made by EA&QEC / EAB are not properly notified for the necessary implementation by the stake holders. Upon detailed discussion, it was decided that in future the Engineering Accreditation Department (EAD) will issue notifications of all policy decisions and notify them to HEIs and any other stake holders.

3. **Ref: PEC 75TH EA&QEC/EAB MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 30, 2015**

a) **General**

During discussion the following policy decisions were taken to be observed/followed in letter and spirit:-

- 1) Appeal cases should be dealt as per Accreditation Manual in true spirit without any relaxation by the Chairman PEC/designated appellant committee, in future.
- 2) Letter to be sent to all Heads of the Institutions to clarify that submission of SAR under OBA-Manual 2014 be initiated/encouraged for the purpose of accreditation/ re-accreditation of program. However, in case specific OBA Criteria if not satisfied, then the same will be considered under Level-1 (Accreditation Manual-2007 Criteria) subject to satisfying the rest of all criterion/policies/regulations.
- 3) In future, all policies concerning to HEIs and accreditation/regulations be notified for information/compliance in letter and spirit.

4. **Ref: PEC 74TH EA&QEC/EAB MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 18-19,2015**

a) **General**

The following policy decisions were taken to be observed/ followed in letter and spirit:

- 1) The faculty retained by an HEI for at least a semester shall be counted in student teacher ratio. Accordingly, the same shall be incorporated in PEC Accreditation Manual-2007 and shall be implemented immediately. The same is already covered in OBA Manual-2014 [section 3.2.5.2]
- 2) No Change of Scope request shall be entertained unless compliance on the allowed intake of PEC is ensured for the last enrollment/intake.
- 3) PEVs are advised to share only their observations/weak areas in the exit meeting with head of the institution at the closure of the visit without sharing final recommendations with HEIs.
- 4) Through a process of reforms in the accreditation system, PEC is bringing the concept of a surprise visit to the HEI. In the meantime, however, if any complaint received (*provided not anonymous*) shall be sent to the Convener for advice to take appropriate necessary action/measures, accordingly.
- 5) The house also discussed the prevailing policy of taking single intake in a year in all programs of a university, and re-confirmed that the same will be continued as a PEC policy, and double intake (Spring and Fall) should not be allowed/ permitted by any HEI.
- 6) Any faculty observed/reported working at two different places, be reported to PEC Enrolment Committee with the consent of Convener EA&QEC/EAB.

b) Agenda Item No. 07: Proposed Policy on fulfillment of Legal Requirements for launching an Engineering Program by Affiliated Institute/College and constituent campus

After deliberation the following policy was decided in light of the HEC and PEC guidelines regarding launching of an engineering program. In future, before conducting a zero visit, the following clearance on the legal status shall be required:-

- i. Recognition / due approval of affiliated institute or constituent college or a sub campus by DAI and HEC (*in case of Federal Territory*) or HED / Chancellor (*in case of Provincial Territory*) having provision of engineering faculty in the act of DAI.
- ii. In case any DAI wants to start an engineering programme and does not have the provision in its act, shall require the engineering faculty be added through a formal approval of HED/HEC/Chancellor [whichever applicable]. For the purpose of documentation, wherever required, the DAI may apply for NOC from PEC. In such cases, the formal application with applicable fee fixed for this purpose, be submitted to Engineering Accreditation Department through registrar PEC. The same shall be placed for the house (EA&QEC/EAB) to approve by checking the relevant provisions of the university / DAI's Act or Charter. This NOC shall not be equivalent to a formal green signal which may be given by PEC after a zero visit and confirm in writing that the DAI may enroll the students in the specified intake limit with effect from a certain intake.
- iii. Affiliated colleges shall be considered for zero visit only if the parent university seeks prior approval from PEC on the specific cases through a prescribed form and fee. Without such written approval, no engineering programme can be started at any affiliated institution / college.
- iv. To start an engineering programme at any institution within Pakistan, the zero visit is mandatory without which the programme shall not be considered for any accreditation. In addition to that, PEC shall not deploy the visitation team for zero visits unless the above legal status is clearly provided.

c) Agenda Item No. 10: Request for Admission in Engineering Programs on the Aggregate Percentage i.e. 59.73%

After detailed deliberations, the house decided that PEC has no objection if HEI admits a student with 60% marks (with or without grace marks) mentioned on the transcripts by the respective board. In this particular case, it was observed that the certificate of the Board of Intermediate, Karachi enumerates that the board has added three (3) marks to raise the grade to 'B' which is equal to 60% as mentioned. Therefore, the house unanimously approved and declared him eligible for admission.

5. Ref: PEC 72ND EA&QEC/EAB MEETING HELD ON APRIL 24,2015

a) Agenda Item No. 01 (d): Recommendations of PEC EA&QEC/EAB Sub-Committee

After deliberation, the committee approved that for any change/addition of new stream/specialization under a mother discipline has to follow the assessment criteria of Zero visit, however Change in the Nomenclature only; for example B.Sc. Computer Engineering to Computer System Engineering, etc., where the scheme of study/course outlines is not affected, will be approved directly through EA&QEC on the request of concerned HEI.

6. **Ref: PEC 71st EA&QEC/EAB MEETING HELD ON APRIL 24,2015**

a) **Agenda Item No. 3(f): Issue of Evening Programs launched by HEIs without permission of PEC.**

The house unanimously approved the policy presented by the Moderation/Review Committee that no evening program(s) shall be accepted/allowed by PEC.

b) **Agenda Item No. 13(c): Uniform Policy for Admission of B.Tech (Pass/Honors) Candidates to B.Sc. Engineering Program**

The Convener of the PEC sub-committee apprised that the sub-committee deliberated on the issue of one year /two years exemption granted by the engineering universities/institutions to the students holding B.Tech/BS Technology qualifications towards admission in engineering program accredited by PEC. The devised policy is categorized in two levels explained as under:-

(1) **Policy for Existing Applications Pending for Registration:**

Registration department may process the existing applications of engineering graduates (enrolled/graduated upto 31st December 2014) for registration subject to fulfillment of following criteria/conditions:-

- a) *Program of B.Tech(pass)/ B.Tech(Hon)/B.Sc Engineering Technology of relevant technology as recognized by HEC.*
- b) *Exemption of maximum of One year for B.Tech(Pass) and two years for B.Tech(Hon)/B.Sc Engineering Technology is granted by the university towards admission in relevant engineering program/ discipline, duly accredited by PEC.*

(2) **Policy for Applications to be Received in Future:**

Only One Year exemption shall be allowed to qualification of B.Tech (Hon)/B.Sc Engineering Technology (Recognized by HEC) towards admission in relevant engineering discipline by engineering universities/Institutions duly accredited by Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC). The admission will not exceed 2% of allocated seats reserved for DAE/B.Tech holders together.

The Convener also apprised the house that the recommended policy has also been approved by the Vice Chancellors Committee in its 32nd meeting held on October 30, 2014, therefore, the house advised the accreditation department to sent letter to all HEIs regarding the maximum limit of 2% allocated seats reserved for DAE/B.Tech holders for the purpose of admission to an undergraduate engineering program to ensure compliance from next intake of Fall 2015.

After deliberation, the house unanimously approved the recommendations of the sub-committee and advised the secretariat to include the same in PEC Regulations for Engineering Education through a revised SRO including other amendments confirmed by 32nd Vice Chancellor Committee meeting of PEC subject to approval of the Governing Body.

c) **Agenda Item No. 13(e): Undertaking by the University/Institute for Launching New Engineering Discipline:**

The draft undertaking was presented for the deliberations and approval of the house. The house approved the same with some amendments. Copy of undertaking is attached in Zero visit form available on PEC website.

7. **Ref: PEC 70th EA&QEC/EAB MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 8-9,2014**

a) **Agenda Item No. 12: Consideration of Lab Engineer / Research Assistant/ Teaching Assistant as academic staff of faculty**

After detailed discussion, the house proposed that a graduate possessing B.E/B.Sc engineering qualification may be hired / appointed initially as Jr. Lecturer/Teaching Assistant (TA)/Research Associate (RA)/Lab Engineer in BPS-17 (in public sector HEIs) or equivalent (in private sector HEIs) with all other privileges. After improving his/her qualification at postgraduate level, he/she may be promoted to Lecturer on BPS-18 (in public sector) or equivalent in private sector HEIs, in order to save career progression / services of a qualified engineer registered with PEC.

b) **Agenda Item No. 14 (b) : Mandatory Internship for Engineering Students**

The house deliberated the issue and most of the members are in favor to place internship as mandatory clause for engineering students to be fulfilled by HEIs during the degree course as part of the study scheme. The Secretary EAB apprised the house that as per the recommendations of the WA-working group and approved PEC OBA Manual 2014, the internship program cannot be mandatory unless the country and all regions have enough industrial opportunities available, therefore it was included in the revised OB Manual-2014 (3.2.3 Criteria 3: Curriculum and Learning Process, sub-title 3.2.3.1 Internship Program) that HEIs/Institutions should facilitate and promote cooperative learning through supervised internship program of continuous 4-6 weeks duration in an engineering practice environment/organizations. The training program should have been supervised by both as planned and agreed between the academic institution and the host professional engineering organization.

8. **Ref: PEC 69th EA&QEC/EAB MEETING HELD ON APRIL 18,2014**

a) **Agenda Item No. 02: Implementation strategy of New OBA-Accreditation Manual 2014, Parallel Policy to phase-out current Manual-2007 (with one addition/amendment to introduce PEOs and PLOs/CLOs)**

The Secretary EA&QEC/EAB, briefed the house on salient features of the new OBA Manual-2014 being implemented from March 2014 after the necessary approval by the EA&QEC/EAB and BoG/Chairman, PEC. He apprised the house that PEC Accreditation Department has developed focused plan to assist HEIs in their preparation to present few of strong programs to WA Mentors to be evaluated/assessed during their follow up visit, bridging the gaps. For this purpose, those HEIs will be selected who are already implementing or having the capacity to synchronize their programs based on OBA Manual-2014; however the continued efforts on the capacity building of potential PEVs on OBE/OBA assessment will be required to deal with challenges faced in the new system. Further, it will not be possible to shift all programs at the same time to the new system. Therefore, a gradual shift from Manual-2007 to revised version of Manual-2014 is proposed as follows:

A policy of Two Levels/ Tiers System of Program Accreditation be adopted for the gradual shift in 2-3 years from Manual 2007 to new OBE-Manual-2014.

Level-I: The programs going through the transition phase and applying for reaccreditation under Manual-2007 will be placed in Level-I during the relaxed/transition period.

Level-II: Will cover the programs applying for evaluation under revised Manual-2014 guidelines and satisfying the given criteria, will be placed for substantial equivalence/recognition of WA.

PEC will continue to motivate HEIs to shift/adopt OBE System/Process at their earliest enabling them to prepare for their international recognition of programs.

After detailed deliberations, the house unanimously agreed on the proposal and provided 2-year transition time for gradual shift from Manual-2007 to OBE-Manual-2014. Till that time, parallel Accreditation/Evaluation shall be continued in two levels under Schedule-I enlistment for national and international recognitions respectively.

b) Agenda Item No. 08: Re-naming/Elevating EA&QEC as EAB as per Approved Manual-2014 and WA Mentors Repeated suggestion to see Progress

This issue has been under discussion since long on the advice of WA-Mentors to increase the impact of a committee to a level of Commission or Board under PEC. In order to harmonize the nomenclature as per International Practices, the house decided to re-name/elevate EA&QEC as EAB (Engineering Accreditation Board) as per the approved OBA Manual-2014 and commitment given by the former Chairperson at the time of grant of Provisional signatory status. Accreditation Department was directed to use single nomenclature as "EAB" instead of "EA&QEC" in all official correspondence to avoid confusion and inline with Manual-2014. Further, the word "Convener EA&QEC" has also been replaced with "Chair EAB" as per mentors guidance elaborated in Manual-2014.

9. Ref: PEC 68th EA&QEC/EAB MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 10,2014

a) General

It was decided that all evening programs started in HEIs should be stopped immediately that may cause, otherwise, compromising the quality standards of engineering education. The same should be published in newspapers as general public notice in case of non-compliance.

b) Agenda item No. 04: Admission Criteria and Relevancy of DAEs towards Engineering program in line with the recent SRO pertaining to PEC Regulations for Engineering education in Pakistan (Article No. 2 (c))

The relevancy of DAE for admission purpose towards Bachelor Engineering Program is approved and given in tabulated form on PEC website and circulation among the HEIs to adopt for their admissions immediately.

c) Agenda item No. 05: Point No. 6.4 of the Minutes of 11th Meeting of Engineering Professional Development Committee (EPDC) held on June 24, 2013 referred to EA&QEC

Regarding compliance of CPD requirements by the teaching faculty, the Committee recommended to EA&QEC that the Accreditation Teams should count only those engineering faculty members having valid PEC registration which is in line with the international practices. The Committee also recommended to EA&QEC and/or PEC relevant forum for introducing requirement of Professional Engineer (PE) for

appointment/promotion to posts of Assistant Professors because such senior position generally involves signing/vetting of design or test report or process certification for the services being provided by most of the engineering universities/ institutions.

10. **Ref: PEC 67th EA&QEC/EAB MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 30,2013**

a) **General (3 &5)**

- a. To bring further clarity for HEIs/students and other stake holders, it was recommended by the House to explain the used term granting “Green Signal” to a specific Intake/batch of a program which does not mean that engineering program is accredited by PEC but it is just an initial permission/NOC to launch a specific program in a HEI which is meeting the bare minimum requirement/standards. This visit also provide required guidance to concerned HEI management and program leaders to be on the right track while progressing and preparing for the final accreditation in the final year and meeting updated / current quality yardstick as described by PEC. The process of assessment will remain continued through conducting an Interim visit and finally by accreditation visit. The final decision pertaining to Accreditation status is subject to successful peer review assessment by PEC Experts/team (PEVs) and approval by EA&QEC to include in First Schedule through requisite SRO under the relevant provisions of PEC Act.
- b. To bring harmony within the HEIs in the country, it was decided that universities/institutions should adopt single entry for admission of students to be inline with all other national HEIs.

b) **Agenda Item No. 6 (a): HEC Request**

Clarification regarding Equivalence of B.S. Telecommunication Engineering Degree awarded by SSUET-Karachi with B.S. Electrical Engineering (Telecom) was placed before EA&QEC for consideration and decision. After brief discussion the case was denied for equivalence as per current policy of Accreditation and thereby Registration for all such similar cases considering disciplines-wise separate registration for respective individual engineers, which otherwise an individual may demand both registration certificate(s) / license from PEC for the purpose of practice professionally. However, it was further elaborated that it is up to the judgment of the employers to recruit / making eligible both of the qualifications based on their relevant credentials, expertise and experience for a specific job. Suitable response stating the decision will be sent to HEC accordingly.

c) **Agenda Item No. 6 (b): Policy decision for the ICS Cases**

Number of cases were received and referred to QEC sub-committee by the Convener EA&QEC pertaining to students with ICS background and have graduated/merged into Electrical engineering programs etc. Their registration with PEC, although the intake batches are accredited, lying pending for the clarification in the light of engineering education regulations. The house deliberated the issue on the brief presented by Dr Nasir as per the available data/information submitted by few of HEIs. It was decided that concerned institutions should be advised to comply with PEC regulations in letter and spirit, however irregularity overlooked by institutions in the past at the time of admission should be covered by eliminating this deficiency and teaching additional course of Chemistry (basic sciences course) at free of cost by concerned institutions/HEIs, in intimation to PEC as additional certificate indicating remedial course taught, examined by university and passed by a student/graduate. Registration of such passed out students/graduates may be entertained subject to accreditation status of their intake batch of a program.

11. **Ref: PEC 66th EA&QEC/EAB MEETING HELD ON JUNE 28, 2013**

a. **Agenda Item No. 02 (5 & 6) : Progress on the Minutes of 65th EA&QEC Meeting**

1. Policy on the cut-of-date for Zero visits (Spring & Fall) was considered again and it was decided principally that procedure being adopted by PEC Accreditation Dept/secretariat should be continued as such. However, in case PEC receives any deserving request after the due date(s), it may be considered after the approval of Chairman PEC and with the consent of Convener EA&QEC.
2. It was also decided that the Focal Person of each university should be available/ indicated to PEC for better coordination between the two organizations. HEI's may be encouraged to apply for all their engineering programs at once for the purpose of assessment, enabling PEC to detail combined visitation team of experts for assessment/accreditation. This will bring an ease and efficiency in execution of increasing number of various accreditations visits every month, nearly approaching about 300 in total now.

12. **Ref: PEC 63rd EA&QEC/EAB MEETING HELD ON JUNE 23, 2012**

a. **Agenda Item No. 5 (a & c) : Any other Point**

1. The house was briefed about the request for issuance of equivalence certificate of B.Sc. Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering to B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering. After thorough deliberation, EA&QEC/EAB directed that both the programs are two separate disciplines accredited as such by the Council and their graduates are registered separately in their relevant domain(s). Therefore, these two programs cannot be equated, which otherwise may cause confusions/ complications for being separate registration. However, employer is a best judge to decide, whether a particular engineering qualification of a PEC registered engineer could be considered suitable for employment/promotion purposes for a particular job/professional work or not.
2. The committee decided that PEC will advertise in newspapers about the programs launched/advertised without zero visit and prior approval of PEC, for awareness of Public (parents and students) to safeguard their future and to avoid deceptive marketing/campaign.

13. **Ref: PEC 62nd EA&QEC/EAB MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 14-15, 2011**

a. **General (b)**

If a university launch an engineering program without prior PEC permission through mandatory zero visit assessment, a Parents Alerts must be appear immediately in daily newspaper(s) along with warning letter to institution to inform all the concerned (students & parents) about the violation of PEC rules and ineligibility of graduates from such program(s) for PEC registration as an engineer.

b. **Agenda Item No. 4 (a): Equivalence of M.Sc. Ocean Engineering to M.Sc. Civil Engineering**

The house was briefed about the request received for determining equivalence of M.Sc. Ocean Engineering to M.Sc. Civil Engineering along with analysis of expert(s). After thorough deliberation and assessment, the committee agreed with the conclusion for granting equivalence of M.Sc. Ocean Engineering to M.Sc. Civil Engineering being its sub-discipline.

c. Agenda Item No. 4 (c): Equivalence of B.Sc. Aerospace Engineering to B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering

The Committee was briefed about the request of IST Islamabad graduate(s) for equivalence of B.Sc. Aerospace Engineering to B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering. After thorough deliberation, EA&QEC/EAB directed that both programs are two separate disciplines accredited as such by the Council and their graduates are registered separately in their relevant domain(s). Therefore, these two programs cannot be equated, which otherwise may cause confusions for being separate registration. However, it was mentioned that the employer is a primary judge to decide, whether a particular engineering qualification of a PEC registered engineer could be considered sufficient for employment/promotion purposes for a particular job.

14. Ref: PEC 61st EA&QEC/EAB MEETING HELD ON JUNE 04, 2011

a. General (a)

It was recommended by the house that PEC Secretariat may maintain database/record of Ph.D. engineering faculty (discipline-wise) on the basis of evaluation visit reports. Universities should also be informed to intimate any change or new induction in order to update the records, accordingly.

b. Agenda item No. 02 General (b): Cut-of-Date For Implementation of Zero Visits Policy

In a joint discussion of Convener, Registrar and Secretary EA&QEC/EAB, it was proposed that institutions who have applied for zero visits will be accommodated /entertained till 31st December, 2011 as cut-of-date.

The Accreditation Committee/Board endorsed and approved the proposal for implementation. It was also decided that a draft may be prepared to seek commitment on legal paper from each university to follow this policy and provisions of PEC Accreditation Manual. Meanwhile, this policy will be widely circulated/publicized to all universities for implementation/ensuring their zero visit requests twice a year as mentioned below:-

- a. By March 31, each year (for launching programs in Fall/October)
- b. By October 30, each year (for launching programs in Spring/March)

c. Agenda item No. 02 General (d): Mandatory Zero Visit(in addition to launching a new engineering program)

The house was informed that policy for change of scope in any engineering program is linked with a mandatory zero visit, as per provisions of PEC Accreditation Manual, and the same was conveyed to all the universities/institutions.

Few members raised the query about the confusion of term used as zero visit for change of scope in the program. After thorough discussion, the house decided that change of scope will cover increase in Intake, significant change in scope of program (objectives, scheme of study, curriculum, charter/affiliation, relocation) etc. For the reasons above, university has to apply well in time before PEC for evaluation/assessment and it will be called as inspection/change of scope visit. The term "Zero Visit" will be used only for launching new program.

d. Agenda item No. 6: Approval of Code of Ethics for Reviewers and Members of EA&QEC

The Secretary EA&QEC briefed the house about the national and international requirement to implement Code of Ethics for Evaluators, PEC Representatives and Members of EA&QEC, while conducting accreditation visits. He presented a draft enclosed at Appendix-I. on the code of ethics (a declaration stating about the confidentiality of information, any conflict of interest, fair evaluation/judgment etc) for Evaluators/Reviewers and Members of EA&QEC including PEC representatives involved in process of accreditation. The house approved the Code of Ethics for implementation with immediate effect.

e. Agenda item No. 7 (c): Equivalence request for B.E. Telecommunication degree with B.E. Electrical.

The house was briefed about the request for equivalence of B.E. Telecommunication degree with B.E. Electrical for job purpose. It was further informed regarding the direction of Lahore High Court, Lahore in its decision against petition (WP No. 3323-2011), to PEC to place the matter before the accreditation committee of the council, which shall give its professional judgment/decision on the claim made by the petitioner after considering the record on the case.

After scrutiny of record and thorough deliberation, the EA&QEC decided that B.E./B.Sc. Telecommunication Engineering and B.E./B.Sc. Electrical Engineering are two separate programs accredited as such by the PEC and their graduates are registered separately in their relevant domain. Therefore, these two degrees cannot be equated, which otherwise cause discrimination and anomalies/confusions. However, the employer is a prime decision maker to decide, whether a particular engineering qualification of a PEC registered Engineer could be considered sufficient for employment/promotion purpose.
