

**A
BILL**

*to provide for establishment of Fatima University of Science and Technology
in Multan*

WHEREAS it is expedient to establish the Fatima University of Science and Technology as a seat of learning for special studies and professional education and to confer on it the power to award degrees and to provide matters connected therewith or ancillary thereto to meet the growing national demand for skilled and technical manpower;

AND WHEREAS the establishment of a multidisciplinary, research-driven University will foster local talent, promote applied research, and equip youth with the knowledge and skills essential for productivity-led, technology-driven economic development;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY**

1. Short title and commencement – (1) This Act may be called the Fatima University of Science and Technology Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions – In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

- (i) "Academic Council" means the Academic Council of the University;
- (ii) "Authority" means any of the Authorities of the University specified in terms of section 17;
- (iii) "Board" means the Board of Governors of the University;
- (iv) "Campus" means campus of the University;
- (v) "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Board;
- (vi) "Chancellor" means the Chancellor of the University;
- (vii) "College" means a constituent college;

- (viii) "Commission" means the Higher Education Commission set up under the Higher Education Commission Ordinance, 2002 (LIII of 2002);
- (ix) "Dean" means the head of a Faculty or the head of an academic body granted the status of a Faculty under this Act or by the statutes or regulations;
- (x) "Department" means a teaching department maintained and administered or recognized by the University in the manner prescribed;
- (xi) "Faculty" means an administrative and academic unit of the University consisting of one or more departments, as prescribed;
- (xii) "Government" means the Federal Government of Pakistan;
- (xiii) "Patron" means the Patron of the University;
- (xiv) "Prescribed" means prescribed by statutes, regulations or rules made under this Act;
- (xv) "Representation Committee" means the Representation Committee set up by the Board under section 22;
- (xvi) "Review Panel" means the Review Panel set up by the Chancellor in accordance with the provisions of section 10;
- (xvii) "Search Committee" means the Search Committee set up by the Board under section 12;
- (xviii) "Statutes", "Regulations" and "Rules" means respectively the statutes, the regulations and the rules made under this Act and for the time being in force;
- (xix) "Teachers" include Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors and Lecturers engaged whole-time by the University or by a constituent college and such other persons as may be declared to be teachers by regulations;
- (xx) "Trust" means the Mian Mukhtar A. Sheikh Trust;
- (xxi) "University" means the Fatima University of Science and Technology established under section 3; and
- (xxii) "Vice Chancellor" means the Vice Chancellor of the University.

CHAPTER II
THE UNIVERSITY

3. Establishment of the University.— (1) The Fatima University of Science and Technology shall be established as a Federal Chartered University with a degree awarding status in the private sector in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) The University shall consist of:

- (a) the Chancellor, the members of the Board, and the Vice Chancellor;
- (b) the members of the Authorities of the University established under section 17;
- (c) all teachers and persons recognized as students of the University in accordance with terms prescribed from to time; *and*
- (d) all other full-time officers and members of the staff of the University.

(3) The University shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal and may by the said name sue and be sued.

(4) The principal seat of the University shall be in Multan, and it may set up any number of campuses in Pakistan and abroad as the Board may determine.

(5) A Skills Development Department shall be established at the principal seat to provide technical oversight of the University's constituent and affiliated units, colleges, schools and teaching departments.

(6) The University shall be competent to acquire and hold property, both movable and immovable, and to lease, sell or otherwise transfer any movable and immovable property which may have become vested in or been acquired by it.

(7) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the University shall have academic, financial and administrative autonomy, including the power to employ officers, teachers and other employees on such terms as may be prescribed, subject to the terms of this Act and standards set by the Commission and the relevant accreditation councils.

4. Powers and purposes of the University. – (1) The purpose of the University shall be to provide for promotion of special studies, professional education and scholarship in such branches of knowledge as it may deem fit with a special focus on medical and health sciences, and to make provision for research, innovation, start-ups, commercialization, service to society and for the application, advancement.

(2) The University shall be a fully autonomous body with the authority to independently manage its academic, financial, and administrative affairs to achieve its objectives, including but not limited to the freedom to:

- (i) prescribe courses of studies to be conducted by it, its campuses, constituent and affiliated institutes and colleges through conventional, online, distance and hybrid mode of learning;
- (ii) admit students to its degree, diploma and certificate programs and conduct entry / admission test through its own testing system or body or an external testing services provider as per the screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies;
- (iii) hold examinations and to award and confer degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions to and on persons, who have been admitted to and have passed its examinations under prescribed conditions;
- (iv) prescribe the terms and conditions of employment of the officers, teachers, and other employees of the University and to lay down terms and conditions as deem appropriate;
- (v) engage, where necessary, persons on contracts or on special assignments of specified duration and to specify the terms of each engagement;

- (vi) confer honorary degrees or other distinctions on approved persons in the manner prescribed;
- (vii) provide for such instruction for persons not being students of the University as it may prescribe, and to grant certificates and diplomas to such persons;
- (viii) University programs for the exchange of students and teachers between the University and other universities, educational institutions and research organizations, inside as well as outside Pakistan;
- (ix) provide career counseling and job search services to students and alumni;
- (x) enter into collaborative arrangements with industrial and other entities to promote experiential learning and employability of students and researchers of the University;
- (xi) maintain linkages with alumni;
- (xii) develop and implement fund-raising plans and programs;
- (xiii) provide and support the academic and professional development of its employees including teaching, research and administrative staff;
- (xiv) confer degrees and qualification certificates on persons who have carried on independent research under prescribed conditions;
- (xv) accept the examinations passed and the period of study spent by students of the University at other universities and places of learning equivalent to such examinations and periods of study in the University, as it may prescribe, and to withdraw such acceptance;
- (xvi) co-operate with other universities, public authorities or private organizations, inside as well as outside Pakistan, in such manner and for such purposes as it may prescribe;
- (xvii) institute University Professorships, Associate Professorships, Assistant Professorships, Lecturerships, research fellows and such other academic posts and to appoint persons thereto;
- (xviii) create posts for research, administration, consultancy and other related purposes and to appoint persons thereto;

- (xix) recognize selected members of the teaching staff of affiliated and constituent colleges or educational institutions admitted to the privileges of the University or such other persons as it may deem fit, as University teachers;
- (xx) to award financial assistance to students in need, fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, medals and prizes under prescribed conditions;
- (xxi) to establish campuses, faculties, institutes, schools, teaching departments, constituent and affiliated institutes and colleges, museums, distance and online education or study centers and other such places of learning for the development of teaching and research and to make such arrangements for their maintenance, management and administration as it may prescribe;
- (xxii) to establish research and incubation centers and such other platforms for the purpose of conducting and promoting specialized research and commercialization in areas of national and regional importance and facilitating cooperation with industrial zones;
- (xxiii) to provide for the residence of the students, faculty and employees of the University, its campuses and its constituent and affiliated institutes and colleges;
- (xxiv) to maintain order, discipline and security on the campuses, constituent and affiliated institutes and colleges of the University;
- (xxv) to promote its academic and mural activities to public through any mean of communication as deem appropriate;
- (xxvi) to promote the extra-curricular and recreational activities of students of the University, and to make arrangements for promoting their health and general welfare;
- (xxvii) to demand and receive such fees from its students and other charges as it may determine;

- (xxviii) to make provision for research, advisory or consultancy services and with these objects to enter into arrangements with other institutions, public or private bodies, commercial and industrial enterprises under prescribed conditions;
- (xxix) to enter into, carry out, vary or cancel contracts;
- (xxx) to receive and manage property transferred and grants, contributions made to the University and to invest any fund representing such property, grants bequests, trusts, gifts, donations, endowments or contributions in such manner as it may deem fit;
- (xxxi) to provide for the printing and publication of literary, research and other works;
- (xxxii) to make rules, regulations and statutes for the University; *and*
- (xxxiii) to do all such other acts and things, whether incidental to the functions and powers aforesaid or not, as may be requisite or expedient in order to further the objectives of the University as a place of education, learning and research.

(3) The principal teaching facilities of the University shall consist of the constituent and affiliated institutions and colleges, faculties, departments, teaching hospitals and such other institutes, colleges, hospitals and units as may be determined by the Board from time to time.

(4) The institutes referred to in sub-section (3) that are in existence at the commencement of this Act shall continue to function under their existing administrative and financial arrangements:

Provided that the examination and other academic or training activities, including research shall be subject to coordination and supervision by the University.

(5) The University shall provide facilities to the representatives of the Commission, accreditation and professional councils, and such similar and relevant organizations for visitation to enable them to verify appropriate academic standards being maintained by the University.

5. University open to all classes, creeds, etc.— (1) The University shall be open to all persons of either sex of whatever religion, race, caste, class, creed, colour or domicile who qualify for admission to the courses of study offered by the University based on the criteria and policy determined by the Board, and no such person shall be denied the privileges of the University on the ground only of sex, religion, race, caste, class, creed, colour or domicile.

(2) The University shall establish financial aid programs for deserving students, subject to available resources, to ensure that admission and access to its opportunities are based on merit, not financial means.

6. Teaching and examination at the University. — (1) All academic programs of the University shall be conducted in the prescribed manner and the Board shall ensure that the courses of study, the curriculum and the practical work at the University are comparable in standard with other similar institutions provided that the same are aligned with the standards as set by the Commission and the relevant accreditation councils.

(2) All teaching in various courses shall be conducted by the University's constituent and affiliated units, colleges, schools, teaching departments and teaching hospitals in the prescribed manner and may include lectures, tutorials, discussions, seminars, demonstrations, distance learning and other methods of instruction as well as practical work in the laboratories, hospitals, workshops and other governmental or private organizations.

(3) Examination and assessment for learning obtained through course of all degree, certificate and diploma programs shall be conducted by the University's constituent and affiliated units, colleges, schools, teaching departments in accordance with rules prescribed, provided that the same are not in conflict with guidelines issued by the Commission, from time to time.

(4) The University shall associate internal and external examiners in the conduct of examinations or other assessments as may be prescribed.

(5) The authority responsible for organizing recognized academic programs shall be such as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER III
OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

7. Officers. – The following shall be the officers of the University:

- (i) the Chancellor;
- (ii) the Vice Chancellor;
- (iii) the Registrar;
- (iv) the Deans;
- (v) the Principals of the Colleges;
- (vi) the Head of teaching departments;
- (vii) such other persons as may be prescribed by the statutes or regulations to be the officers of the University.

8. Patron. – (1) The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan shall be the Patron of the University.

(2) The Patron, when present, or in his absence, his nominee, shall preside at the convocation of the University.

(3) Every proposal to confer an honorary degree shall be subject to confirmation by the Patron.

9. Visitation. – (1) The Patron may cause an inspection or inquiry to be made in respect of any matter connected with the affairs of the University and shall, from time to time, direct any person to inquire into or carry out inspection of:

- (i) the University, its buildings, laboratories, libraries and other facilities;
- (ii) any institution, department or hostel maintained by the University;
- (iii) the adequacy of financial and human resources;
- (iv) the teaching, research, curriculum, examination and other matters of the University; and
- (v) such other matters as may be specified by him.

(2) The Patron shall communicate to the Board his views with regard to the result of a visitation and shall, after ascertaining the views of the Board, advise the Board on the action to be taken by it.

(3) The Board shall, within such time as may be specified by the Patron, communicate to him such action, if any, as has been taken, or may be proposed to be taken, upon the results of visitation.

(4) Where the Board does not, within the time specified, take action to the satisfaction of the Patron, he may issue such directions as he may deem fit and the Board shall comply with all such directions.

10. Chancellor. – (1) The Chairperson of the Mian Mukhtar A. Sheikh Trust will be the Chancellor of the University.

(2) The Chancellor shall be the Chairperson of the Board.

(3) The members of the Board as well as the Vice Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor from amongst the persons recommended by the Representation Committee set up for this purpose or the Search Committee established in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the statutes, as the case may be.

(4) If the Chancellor is satisfied that serious irregularity or mismanagement with respect to the affairs of the University has occurred, he may as regards proceedings of the Board direct that specified proceedings be reconsidered and appropriate action taken within one month of the direction having been issued:

Provided that if the Chancellor is satisfied that either no reconsideration has been carried out or that the reconsideration has failed to address the concern expressed, he may, after calling upon the Board to show cause in writing, appoint a five member Review Panel to examine and report to the Chancellor on the functioning of the Board. The report of the Review Panel shall be submitted within such time as may be prescribed by the Chancellor. The Review Panel shall be drawn from persons of eminence in academics and in the fields of administration, law, medical and health sciences.

11. Vice Chancellor of the University. – (1) There shall be a Vice Chancellor of the University who shall be an eminent academic or a distinguished administrator and shall be appointed by the Chancellor on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

(2) The Vice Chancellor shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the University responsible for all administrative and academic functions of the University and for ensuring that the provisions of this Act, statutes, regulations and rules are faithfully observed in order to promote the general efficiency and good order of the University.

(3) At any time when the office of the Vice Chancellor is vacant or the Vice Chancellor is absent or is unable to perform the functions of his office due to illness or some other cause, the Board shall make arrangements for the performance of the duties of the Vice Chancellor by any other person as it may deem fit subject to the condition that tenure of such arrangement may not exceed from six months.

(4) The Vice Chancellor shall, if present, be entitled to attend any meeting of any Authority or body of the University.

(5) The Vice Chancellor may, in an emergency that in his opinion requires immediate action ordinarily not in the competence of the Vice Chancellor, take such action and forward, within seventy-two hours, a report of the action taken to the members of the Board.

(6) The Vice Chancellor shall also have the following powers:

- (a) to direct teachers, officers and other employees of the University to take up such assignments in connection with examination, administration and such other activities in the University's constituent and affiliated units, colleges, schools and teaching departments, as he may consider necessary for the purposes of the University;
- (b) to sanction by re-appropriation an amount not exceeding an amount prescribed by the Board for an unforeseen item not provided for in the budget and report it to the Board at the next meeting;
- (c) to make appointments of such categories of employees of the University and in such manner as may be prescribed by the statutes;

- (d) to appoint consultants for technical assistance on organizational and infrastructural planning, development, reforms and for matters pertaining to institutional and financial governance, and advisors for academics, research, quality assurance, accreditation, commercialization and global engagements, on contractual basis and on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine from time to time;
- (e) to suspend, punish and remove, in accordance with prescribed procedure, from service officers, teachers and other employees of the University except those appointed by or with the approval of the Board;
- (f) to delegate, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, any of his powers under this Act to an officer or officers of the University; and
- (g) to exercise and perform such other powers and functions as may be prescribed.

(7) The Vice Chancellor shall present an annual report before the Board within three months of the close of the academic year. The annual report shall present such information as regards the academic year under review as may be prescribed, including disclosure of all relevant facts pertaining to:

- (a) academics;
- (b) research;
- (c) administration; and
- (d) finances.

(8) The Vice Chancellor shall make available annual report, prior to its presentation before the Board, to all officers and University teachers and it shall be published in such numbers as are required to ensure its wide circulation.

12. Appointment and removal of the Vice Chancellor. – (1) The Vice Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor on recommendations made by the Board.

(2) A Search Committee for the recommendation of persons suitable for appointment as Vice Chancellor shall be constituted by the Board on the date and in the manner prescribed by statutes. The Search Committee shall remain in existence till such time that the appointment of the next Vice Chancellor has been made by the Chancellor.

(3) Three most suitable persons shall be proposed by the Search Committee to the Board for appointment as Vice Chancellor which will forward the panel to the Chancellor for approval of appointment.

(4) The Vice Chancellor shall be appointed for a renewable tenure of four years on terms and conditions prescribed by statute. The tenure of an incumbent Vice Chancellor of the University shall be renewed by the Chancellor on receipt of a resolution of the Board in support of such renewal:

Provided that the Chancellor may call upon the Board to reconsider such resolution once.

(5) The Board may, pursuant to a resolution in this behalf passed by three-fourth of its membership, recommend to the Chancellor for the removal of the Vice Chancellor on grounds of inefficiency, moral turpitude or physical or mental incapacity or gross misconduct, including misuse of position for personal advantages of any kind:

Provided that the Chancellor may make reference to the Board stating the instances of inefficiency, moral turpitude or physical or mental incapacity or gross misconduct on the part of the Vice Chancellor that have come to his notice. After consideration of the reference, the Board may, pursuant to a resolution in this behalf passed by two-third of its membership, recommend to the Chancellor for the removal of the Vice Chancellor:

Provided further that prior to a resolution for the removal of the Vice Chancellor being voted upon, the Vice Chancellor shall be given an opportunity of being heard.

(6) A resolution recommending the removal of the Vice Chancellor shall be submitted to the Chancellor forthwith, and the Chancellor may accept the recommendation and order removal of the Vice Chancellor or return the recommendation to the Board for reconsideration and resubmission.

13. Registrar. - (1) There shall be a Registrar of the University to be appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Vice Chancellor, on such terms and conditions as prescribed by the service rules of the University.

(2) The Registrar shall be a full-time officer of the University and shall:

- (a) be the administrative head of the secretariat of the University and be responsible for the provision of secretariat support to the Authorities of the University;
- (b) be the custodian of the common seal and the academic records of the University;
- (c) maintain a register of registered graduates in the prescribed manner;
- (d) supervise the process of election, appointment or nomination of members to the various Authorities and other bodies in the prescribed manner; and
- (e) perform such other duties as may be prescribed.

(3) Service of the Registrar at all instances including removal from service shall be governed in accordance with the service rules of the University.

14. Dean.- (1) The Board shall appoint a person having Ph.D. in the relevant discipline and experience to head the Faculty to be the Dean.

(2) A Dean shall hold office for a term of four years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for similar term or such shorter terms, as the Board may determine.

(3) The Dean shall have an overall responsibility for the academic and education programmes of the faculty, under the overall directions of Vice-Chancellor.

15. Director of Finance. – (1) There shall be a Director of Finance of the University to be appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Vice Chancellor, on such terms and conditions as prescribed by the service rules of the University.

(2) The Director of Finance shall be a full-time Chief Financial Officer of the University and shall:

- (a) manage the assets, liabilities, receipts, expenditures, funds and investments of the University;
- (b) prepare the annual and revised budget estimates of the University and present them to the Board or a committee thereof for approval and incorporation in the budget to be presented to the Board;
- (c) ensure that the funds of the University are expended on the purposes for which they are provided;
- (d) have the accounts of the University audited annually so as to be available for submission to the Board within six months of the close of the financial year; *and*
- (e) perform such other duties as may be prescribed.

(3) Service of the Director of Finance at all instances including removal from service shall be governed in accordance with the service rules of the University.

16. Director of Admissions and Examinations.– (1) There shall be a Director of Admissions and Examinations of the University to be appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Vice Chancellor, on such terms and conditions as prescribed by the service rules of the University.

(2) The Director of Admissions and Examinations shall be a full-time employee of the University and shall be responsible for all matters connected with the conduct of examinations and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed.

(3) Service of the Director of Admissions and Examinations at all instances including removal from service shall be governed in accordance with the service rules of the University.

CHAPTER IV
AUTHORITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY

17. Authorities. – (1) The following shall be the Authorities of the University:

- (a) Authorities established by this Act:
 - (i) Board of Governors;
 - (ii) Academic Council;
- (b) Authorities to be established by the statutes:
 - (i) Selection Board;
 - (ii) Board of Advance Study and Research;
 - (iii) Board of Faculty;
 - (iv) Board of Study;

(2) The Board of Governors and the Academic Council may set up such other committees or sub-committees, by whatever name, as are considered desirable through statutes or regulations as appropriate. Such committees or sub-committees shall be Authorities of the University for the purposes of this Act.

18. Board of Governors.– (1) There shall be a Board of Governors responsible for the governance of the University and consist of the following:

- (i) Chancellor of the University who shall be its Chairperson;
- (ii) Vice-Chancellor of the University who shall be its Vice Chairperson;
- (iii) the Chairman, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan or his nominee of not below the rank of BPS-19;
- (iv) the President of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council or his nominee of not below the rank of BPS-19;
- (v) one representative each from industry and academia, to be nominated by the Chancellor; and
- (vi) such other members recommended by the Board and authorized by the Chancellor.

(2) Members of the Board, other than ex-officio members, shall hold office for three years provided that no person, other than an ex-officio member, may serve on the Board for more than two consecutive terms.

(3) The Board shall meet at least twice in a calendar year.

(4) Service on the Board shall be on honorary basis provided that actual expenses may be reimbursed as prescribed.

(5) The Registrar of the University shall be the Secretary of the Board.

(6) All decisions of the Board shall be taken on the basis of the opinion of a majority of the members present. In the event of the members being evenly divided on any matter the person presiding over the meeting shall have a casting vote.

(7) No act or proceedings of the Board shall be invalid by reasons only of the existence of a vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of, the Board.

(8) The quorum for a meeting of the Board shall be half of its membership.

(9) Members of the Board, other than ex-officio members, may not be removed from the Board before the expiry of their term save on proven charges of corruption, permanent inability, inefficiency or failure to attend two consecutive meetings without intimation in advance.

19. Powers and purposes of the Board of Governors.— (1) The Board shall have the power of general supervision over the University and shall hold the Vice Chancellor and the Authorities accountable for all the functions of the University. The Board shall also have all powers of the University not expressly vested in an Authority or officer by this Act and all other powers not expressly mentioned by this Act that are necessary for the performance of its functions.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers, the Board shall have the following powers:

- (a) to approve the proposed annual plan of work, the annual and revised budgets, the annual report and the annual statement of account;

- (b) to hold, control and lay down policy for the administration of the property, funds and investments of the University, including the approval of the sale, purchase, lease, acquisition and use of immovable property for commercial purposes to support and collaborate for academic pursuits;
- (c) to oversee the quality and relevance of the University's academic programs and to review the academic affairs of the University in general;
- (d) to approve the appointment of the Principals, Deans, Professors, Associate Professors and such other senior faculty and senior administrators, advisors and consultants as may be prescribed;
- (e) to approve the terms and conditions of appointment of all officers, teachers and other employees of the University;
- (f) to approve strategic plans;
- (g) to approve financial resource development and allocation plans of the University;
- (h) to approve statutes and regulations as proposed by the Academic Council;
- (i) to annul by order in writing the proceedings of any Authority or officer if the Board is satisfied that such proceedings are not in accordance with the provisions of this Act, statutes or regulations after calling upon such Authority or officer to show cause why such proceedings should not be annulled;
- (j) to appoint members of the Academic Council, other than ex-officio members, in accordance with the provisions of this Act;
- (k) to appoint all officers, teachers and other employees of the University on recommendation of the Selection Committee as may be prescribed;
- (l) to remove any person from the membership of any Authority in accordance with the service rules of the University; and

- (m) to determine the form, provide for the custody and regulate the use of the common seal of the University.

(3) The Board may, by general or special order and subject to such conditions as it may deem fit, delegate to Chairperson, sub-committee or any member of the Board any of its functions under this Act, in extraordinary circumstances for a specific period as determined by the Board:

Provided that the Board may revoke such delegation at any time before expiry of the given period in the manner as prescribed.

(4) The Board may, in accordance with the terms and procedures as may be prescribed, cause an inspection to be made in respect of any matter connected with the University.

20. Academic Council.– (1) There shall be an Academic Council of the University consisting of the following:

- (a) the Vice Chancellor who shall be its Chairperson;
- (b) the Deans of Faculties and such Heads of Departments as may be prescribed;
- (c) five members representing the departments, University's constituent and affiliated units, colleges, schools and teaching departments in the manner as prescribed;
- (d) five Professors including at least three from outside the University, in the manner as prescribed;
- (e) the Director of Academics;
- (f) the Director of Quality Enhancement Cell; *and*
- (g) the Director of Admissions and Examinations.

(2) The Board shall appoint the members of the Academic Council, other than the ex-officio on the recommendation of the Vice Chancellor.

(3) The Members of the Academic Council, other than the ex-officio members, shall hold office for three years.

(4) The Academic Council shall meet at least once in each semester in an academic year.

(5) The quorum for meetings of the Academic Council shall be one-third of the total number of members, a fraction being counted as one.

21. Powers and purposes of the Academic Council.— (1) The Academic Council shall be the principal academic body of the University and shall, subject to the provisions of this Act and statutes, have the power to lay down proper standards of instruction, research and examinations and to regulate and promote the academic life of the University, its campuses and the colleges.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers and subject to the provisions of this Act and statutes, the Academic Council shall have the power to:

- (a) approve the policies and procedures pertaining to the quality of academic programs;
- (b) approve academic programs;
- (c) approve the policies and procedures pertaining to student-related academic functions including but not limited to admissions, expulsions, punishments, examinations and certifications;
- (d) approve the policies and procedures assuring quality of teaching and research;
- (e) propose to the Board, schemes for the constitution and organization of faculties, teaching departments, Board of Advance Study and Research, Board of Faculty and Boards of Studies in accordance with provisions of this Act, Statutes and regulations of the University;
- (f) to approve University programs for the continued professional development of University's teachers, officers and other employees;
- (g) recognize the examinations of other universities or examining bodies as equivalent to the corresponding examinations of the University in accordance with the criteria as approved by the Academic Council;
- (h) prescribe the mechanism and criteria for the award of studentships, scholarships, exhibitions, honors, medals and prizes;

- (i) prepare an annual report on the academic performance of the University;
- (j) to propose draft statutes and regulations for consideration and approval by the Board;
- (k) approve Rules proposed by the Authorities and the other bodies of the University;
- (l) perform such functions as may be prescribed by regulations; *and*
- (m) propose any other academic regulations which are not covered above for the approval of the Board.

22. Representation Committee.- There shall be a Representation Committee constituted by the Board of Governors through Statute for recommendation of persons to the Board of Governors in accordance with the provisions of section 18.

CHAPTER V

UNIVERSITY FUND

23. Fund of the University.- The University shall have a fund to which shall be credited its income from fees, charges, donations, trusts, bequests, endowments, contributions, grant and all other sources.

24. Audits and accounts.- (1) The accounts of the University shall be maintained in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The teaching departments, colleges and all other bodies designated as such by the Board in terms of statutes shall be independent cost centres of the University with authority vested in the head of each cost centre to sanction expenditure out of the budget allocated to it:

Provided that re-appropriation from one head of expenditure to another may be made by the head of a cost-centre in accordance with and to the extent prescribed by statutes.

(3) All funds generated by a teaching department, constituent college or other unit of the University through consultancy, research or other provision of service shall be made available without prejudice to the budgetary allocation otherwise made, after deduction of overheads in the manner and to the extent prescribed by statute, to the teaching department, constituent college or other unit for its development. A part of the funds so generated may be shared with the University teachers or researchers in charge of the consultancy, research or service concerned in the manner, and to the extent prescribed by statute.

(4) No expenditure shall be made from the funds of the University, unless a bill for its payments has been issued by the head of the cost-centre concerned in accordance with the relevant statutes and the Director of Finance has verified that the payment is provided for in the approved budget of the cost-centre, subject to the authority to re-appropriate, available to the head of the cost-centre.

(5) Provision shall be made for an internal audit of the finances of the University.

(6) Without prejudice to the requirement of audit by an auditor appointed by the Government in accordance with the provisions of any other law in force, the annual audited statement of accounts of the University shall be prepared in conformity with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) by a reputed firm of chartered accountants and signed by the Director Finance.

CHAPTER VI

GENERAL PROVISIONS

25. Opportunity to show cause.— Except as otherwise provided by law, no officer, teacher or other employee of the University holding a permanent post shall be reduced in rank or removed or compulsorily retired from service in accordance with the service rules of the University for cause arising out of any act or omission on the part of the person concerned unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity of showing cause against the action proposed to be taken.

26. Appeal to the Board of Governors.— Where an order is passed punishing any officer other than the Vice Chancellor, teacher or other employee of the University or altering or interpreting to his disadvantage the prescribed terms or conditions of his service, he shall, where the order is passed by any officer or teacher of the University other than the Vice Chancellor, have the right to appeal to the Vice Chancellor against the order, and where the order is passed by the Vice Chancellor, have the right to appeal to the Board.

27. Service of the University.— (1) An officer, teacher or other employee of the University shall retire from service on the attainment of such age or tenure of service as may be prescribed.

(2) As regards the terms and, conditions of employment of persons in the service of Pakistan in general or in comparable employment notwithstanding the service of persons employed by the University shall be entirely governed by terms and conditions prescribed by the relevant statutes.

28. Benefits and Insurance. — (1) The University shall constitute for the benefit of its officers, teachers and other employees schemes, as may be prescribed for the provision of post-employment benefits as well as health and life insurance while in service.

(2) Where any provident fund has been constituted under this Act, the provisions of the Provident Funds Act, 1925 (XIX of 1925), shall apply to such funds as if it were the Government Provident Fund.

29. Transfer of assets and liabilities, etc. — Upon the commencement of this Act:

- (a) everything done, action taken, obligations and liabilities incurred, persons appointed or authorized, fellowships or scholarships and orders issued by the University prior to commencement of this Act shall be continued and, so far as may be, deemed to have been respectively done, taken, incurred, appointed or authorized, or issued by the University; *and*

- (b) all the money and properties held by the University immediately before such commencement shall stand transferred to, and vest in, the reconstituted University.

30. Statutes.- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, statutes may be made to regulate or prescribe all or any of the following matters, namely:-

- (a) contents of and the manner in which the annual report to be presented by the Vice Chancellor before the Board shall be prepared;
- (b) University fees and other charges;
- (c) constitution of any pension, insurance, gratuity, provident funds and benevolent fund for University employees;
- (d) scale of pay and other terms and conditions of service of officers, teachers and other University employees;
- (e) maintenance of the register of registered graduates;
- (f) affiliation and dis-affiliation of educational institutions and related matters;
- (g) admission of educational institutions to the privileges of the University and the withdrawal of such privileges;
- (h) the establishment of faculties, departments, institutes, colleges and other academic divisions;
- (i) powers and duties of officers and teachers;
- (j) conditions under which the University may enter into arrangements with other institutions or with public bodies for purposes of research and advisory services;
- (k) conditions for appointment of Emeritus Professors and award of honorary degree;
- (l) efficiency and discipline of University employees;

- (m) the constitution and procedure to be followed by representation committees in carrying out functions in terms of this Act;
- (n) the constitution and procedure, to be followed by the search committee, for appointment of the Vice Chancellor;
- (o) constitution, functions and powers of the Authorities of the University; and
- (p) all other matters which by this Act are to be or may be prescribed or regulated by statutes made thereunder.

(2) The draft statutes shall be proposed by the Academic Council for consideration and approval by the Board.

(3) No statute shall be valid until it has been approved by the Board.

31. Regulations.- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and the statutes made thereunder, the Academic Council may make regulations, for all or any of the following matters, namely:-

- (a) courses of study for degrees, diplomas and certificates of the University;
- (b) admission and expulsion of students to and from the University;
- (c) conditions under which students shall be admitted to the courses and the examinations of the University and shall become eligible for the award of degrees, diplomas and certificates;
- (d) conduct of examinations;
- (e) conditions under which a person may carry on independent research to entitle him to a degree;
- (f) institution of fellowships, scholarships, exhibitions, medals and prizes;
- (g) use of the library;

- (h) formation of faculties, departments and board of studies; and
- (i) other matters which by this Act or the statutes are to be or may be prescribed by regulations.

(2) The regulations shall be approved by the Board on the recommendations of the Academic Council.

(3) No regulation shall be valid until it has been approved by the Board.

32. Amendment and repeal of statutes and regulations.- The procedure for adding to, amending or repealing the statutes and the regulations shall be the same as that prescribed respectively for framing or making statutes and regulations.

33. Rules.- (1) The Authorities and the other bodies of the University shall make rules, consistent with this Act, statutes and regulations made thereunder to regulate any matter relating to the affairs of the University which has not been provided for by this Act or that is not required to be regulated by statutes or regulations.

(2) Rules shall become effective upon approval by the Academic Council.

34. Indemnity. – No suit or legal proceedings shall lie against the University or any Authority, officer or employee of the University or any person in respect of anything which is done in good faith under this Act.

35. Removal of difficulties. – (1) If any question arises as to the interpretation of any of the provisions of the Act, it shall be placed before the Chancellor whose decision thereon shall be final.

(2) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of the Act, the Chancellor may make such order after obtaining the views of the Board, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Act, as may appear to him to be necessary for removing the difficulty.

(3) Where the Act makes any provision for anything to be done but no provision or no sufficient provision has been made as respects the authority by whom, or the time at which, or the manner in which, it shall be done, then it shall be done by such authority, at such time, or in such manner as the Chancellor may direct after obtaining the views of the Board.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Southern Punjab, particularly Multan, faces a significant deficit in Specialized Higher Education Institutions offering advanced programs in Medical Sciences, Engineering, Biotechnology and Emerging Technologies. Therefore, establishment of the Fatima University of Science and Technology Multan aims:-

- i) to address the regional disparities in education by providing world class scientific and technical education and to serve as a transformative educational hub for Southern Punjab contributing to National progress;
- ii) to reduce financial burden of students on major cities by retaining talented students within the region;
- iii) to promote research and innovation aligned with the National Development Goals.

2. The Bill is proposed to achieve the above said objectives.

SENATOR HIDAYATULLAH KHAN
SENATOR UMER FAROOQ
Members in Charge