

Westminster College Oxford Trust Ltd Appointments

Contact Name and Details	Mrs Susan Barratt Vice-Chair, Westminster College Oxford Trust Ltd
Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	Decision
Draft Resolutions	20/1. The Methodist Council approves the nomination by the Board of Westminster College Oxford Trust Ltd for appointment by the 2014 Methodist Conference of the following person as Director, for a further three year period from 1 September 2014: Mrs Susan R Howdle; and further recommends to the Conference that it should resolve, under Article 36 of the Articles of Association of WCOT Ltd, that a period of one year's non-service upon the Board should not be required of Mrs Howdle.

1. Westminster College Oxford Trust Ltd (WCOT) is the charitable company appointed by the Methodist Conference as the managing trustee of the Westminster campus at Harcourt Hill, Oxford. WCOT oversees the continuing relationship between Oxford Brookes University and the Methodist Church, in relation to both the physical developments on the campus (a 60 year lease having been granted to the university at the time of the merger in 2000) and the activities taking place there in which the church has a continuing interest.
2. Under the company's Articles of Association, the Board consists of:
the Ex Officio Director, being the General Secretary of the Methodist Church or his nominee;
between three and seven Foundation Directors;
any Co-opted Directors appointed by the Board [none at present].
3. Currently, Mrs Ann Leck is the Ex Officio Director, and there are four Foundation Directors: Mrs Susan R Howdle (chair), Mrs Susan Barratt (deputy chair), Dr Clifford Marshall and the Revd Dr Martin Wellings.
4. The Articles provide that Foundation Directors are to be nominated by the Board, approved by the Methodist Council and appointed by the Conference. They serve for three years and are eligible for re-appointment under the provisions of the Articles for a further three years. After that period, a retiring Director is not eligible for re-appointment without a period of at least one year of non-service, but "such period of non-service shall not be required if the Conference so resolves".
5. Mrs Susan Howdle's term of appointment comes to an end on 31 August 2014 and it is our understanding that her re-appointment will require the Council's approval to come to the 2014 Conference. As she will at that date have served two three year terms, her reappointment would require the Conference's resolution to waive the requirement for a 'gap' year, and the Board would wish to seek that. Whilst it is obviously important to have some regular turnover and renewal of such bodies, the respect in which Mrs Howdle is held at Oxford Brookes University, together with her wisdom, depth of experience and expertise in dealing with strategic and technical issues and her knowledge of Church protocol and proper procedure, are a vital part of

the Board's life as we deal with a period of change at Oxford Brookes and the university's estates plans for the future. A further three year extension will mean that the end of her term as a director of WCOT will coincide with the end of her term as a Governor at Oxford Brookes University. It is therefore very much hoped that the Council will approve this way forward.

*****RESOLUTION**

20/1. The Methodist Council approves the nomination by the Board of Westminster College Oxford Trust Ltd for appointment by the 2014 Methodist Conference of the following person as Director, for a further three year period from 1st September 2014:

Mrs Susan R Howdle;

and further recommends to the Conference that it should resolve, under Article 36 of the Articles of Association of Westminster College Oxford Trust Ltd, that a period of one year's non-service upon the Board should not be required of Mrs Howdle.

Reasoned statement

Susan R Howdle is a Past Vice-President of the Conference and a lawyer with experience in higher education and in chairing a number of connexional bodies.