



MISSION COUNCIL

13 – 15 MAY 2013

J5

THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AT WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

1. The composition of the Board of Governors of Westminster College derives from resolutions of the General Assembly. The Board was first constituted by a resolution of General Assembly in 1996, and this resolution was amended by a further resolution at General Assembly 2008. The relevant clauses are as follows:

2.2.2.1 There shall be a Board of Governors for the College appointed by the General Assembly, consisting of fifteen members as follows:

(a) a Convener, chosen for that purpose;

(b) a clerk or secretary to the Board, chosen for the purpose;

(c) eight other persons, of whom at least two shall have expertise in management, finance and the administration of buildings, two shall have expertise in education, and two shall have ministerial experience;

(d) the Principal of the college ex officio;

(e) a member of the teaching staff of the College, chosen by them;

(f) a student member of the College, chosen by the students;

(g) the Chair of the Cheshunt Governors ex officio;

(h) an Honorary Treasurer.

2.2.2.2 Within the total membership there shall be a representative of the Cambridge Theological Federation, a representative of the University of Cambridge or the Faculty of Divinity of the University, a representative of Anglia Ruskin University and the Secretary for Education and Learning.

2.2.2.3 The nomination of Governors in classes (a), (b), (c) and (h) shall be made by the Nominations Committee of the General Assembly, and the period of service for such Governors shall be six years. At least nine Governors shall be members of the United Reformed Church. The Nominations Committee shall ensure a regular rotation of Governors.

2. The Convener of the Board reports that, at present, the Board is operating with sixteen members, not fifteen. This is because there are nine members in category (c), as follows:

Persons with expertise in management, etc.:

- (a) Revd Nigel Appleton
- (b) Canon Brian Long.

Persons with expertise in education:

- (a) Professor Derrik Ferney (Anglia Ruskin University)
- (b) Revd Canon Andrew Norman (Cambridge Theological Federation)
- (c) Dr. Jean Stevenson
- (d) Revd Fiona Thomas (Secretary for Education and Learning)
- (e) Revd Professor David Thompson (University of Cambridge)

Persons with ministerial experience:

- (a) Revd Craig Muir
- (b) Revd Kristin Ofstad

3. The anomaly of the additional member arose in 2008, when a new Convener of Governors (Professor Sir Anthony Bottoms) was appointed, but the previous Convener (Revd Professor David Thompson) retained his role as a Governor, as the representative of the Divinity Faculty of the University of Cambridge.

4. This anomaly clearly needs to be rectified. However, the experience of the Board of Governors since 2008 has suggested that there is significant merit in having nine Governors in class (c). This is because it is certainly necessary to retain two members with managerial experience (in addition to the Treasurer), and it is also vital to retain two members with ministerial experience. Given that para. 2.2.2.2 requires the appointment of four representative Governors who almost by definition will have educational experience, there is a clear case for a Governor with educational expertise who is not a representative Governor.

5. The Governors therefore ask that paragraph 2.2.2.1 be amended so that in the preamble “fifteen” is replaced by “sixteen”, and in (c) “eight” is replaced by “nine”.

6. This change would require no action from the Nominations Committee at this stage, since the additional Governor is already in place.

Margaret Carrick Smith

6th March 2013

RESOLUTION

Mission Council, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, resolves to amend clause 2.2.2.1 of the provisions for the Governors of Westminster College to read:

2.2.2.1 There shall be a Board of Governors of the College appointed by the General Assembly, consisting of sixteen members as follows:

- (a) a Convener, chosen for that purpose;**
- (b) a clerk or secretary to the Board, chosen for the purpose;**
- (c) nine other persons, of whom at least two shall have expertise in management, finance and the administration of buildings, two shall have expertise in education, and two shall have ministerial experience;**
- (d) the Principal of the college ex officio;**
- (e) a member of the teaching staff of the College, chosen by them;**
- (f) a student member of the College, chosen by the students;**
- (g) the Chair of the Cheshunt Governors ex officio;**
- (h) an Honorary Treasurer.**