

# **BRUNEL UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

## **Council Ordinance 13**

### **Appointment of the Rector and Pro-Rectors**

#### **Purpose**

Charter Article 10.1 confirms the authority to appoint the Rector, the terms of office that might be served and the conditions by which the resignation or dismissal may be effected.

Ordinance 12 confirms the authority to appoint Pro-Rectors, the terms of office that might be served and the conditions by which the resignation or dismissal may be effected.

This Ordinance sets out the process by which the appointment of the Rector and Pro-Rectors may be made.

#### **Process of Appointment**

1. Council shall require the Governance & Nominations Committee to oversee the process for selecting successors to the Rector and Pro-Rectors and to recommend to Council candidates for appointment. Governance & Nominations Committee shall also, if appropriate, recommend to Council the appointment of a person to serve as Acting Rector and or Pro-Rector.
2. Governance & Nominations Committee shall have freedom to determine the most appropriate way to conduct its business, but issues relating to terms and conditions of the Rector and Pro-Rector are reserved for Council.
3. The Rector and Pro-Rectors shall normally be appointed for a period of up to five years or until resignation or removal in accordance with Ordinance 13, Article 7 and unless so removed shall be eligible for re-appointment on one further occasion for a period of up to five years (as determined by the Council).
4. If the office of Rector becomes vacant by death or resignation or from any other cause before the expiration of the period of office, one of the Pro-Rectors shall act in place of the Rector in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance 12, Article 1.2. Council may appoint a successor who shall hold office for the unexpired period of office of such former Rector.
5. If the office of Pro-Rector becomes vacant by death or resignation or from any other cause before the expiration of the period of office, the Council may appoint a successor who shall hold office for the unexpired period of office of such former Pro-Rector.
6. The Rector or a Pro-Rector may resign from office by writing to the Council by a period of notice of at least six months (or such other period approved by Council) and on their death, bankruptcy or mental or physical incapacity for a period of at least three months rendering him or her incapable of carrying out their responsibilities shall automatically cease to hold office. The Rector or a Pro-Rector may be removed for a good cause by the Council. He or she shall not be so removed by the Council unless he or she shall have been given a reasonable opportunity to have been heard in person by the Council.

7. "Good cause" in this Ordinance means:
  - a. Conviction for an offence which may be deemed by the Council to be such as to render the person convicted unfit for the execution of the duties of office; or
  - b. Conduct of an immoral, scandalous or disgraceful nature incompatible with the duties of office; or
  - c. Conduct constituting failure or persistent refusal or neglect or inability to perform the duties or comply with the conditions of office whether such failure results from physical or mental incapacity or otherwise.

### **The Role of the Rector**

8. The Rector shall confer Degrees and present other awards granted by the University and shall have the power to delegate (and in their absence be required to delegate) such power to such persons as the Senate of the University shall think fit.
9. A detailed specification of the role of the Rector is included in the Appendix.

## Appendix

### The Person Specification

#### *The Role of the Rector*

The Rector acts as the ceremonial figurehead of the University. The formal responsibilities of the Rector are set out in the University's Charter and Ordinances:

- There shall be a Rector of the University who shall be the ceremonial head of the University and shall have an ambassadorial role.
- The Rector shall confer Degrees and present other awards granted by the University and shall have the power to delegate (and in their absence be required to delegate) such power to such persons as the Senate of the University shall think fit.

The Rector may also, on the authority of Senate, preside at degree congregations and confer degrees of the University.

The Rector also has an important ambassadorial role for the University, working with the Vice-Chancellor and President and with the Pro-Rector(s) to represent the University in the external community. The Rector is expected to be an advocate of the University working to raise the University's profile and advance its interests nationally and internationally.

It is expected that the Rector will be appointed for a period of up to five years in the first instance.

#### **Principal Duties**

The Rector's principal duties are to:

- preside at the University's degree ceremonies;
- represent the University externally on appropriate occasions as agreed with the Vice-Chancellor and President;
- visit the University regularly for social events and working meetings as appropriate to their interests as agreed with the Vice-Chancellor and President.

The time commitment is currently about 5 working days per year.

#### **Key Attributes**

- The Rector should be someone from whom students could be proud to receive their degrees.
- The Rector should be able to demonstrate the highest quality and integrity in their chosen walk of life.
- The Rector should have a clear commitment to the values of the University in teaching and research, openly supporting our endeavours to ensure our work makes a significant contribution to economic and social prosperity as part of our public service duty.
- The Rector should have a general interest in higher education and in extending it to a wide group of people.
- The Rector should be supportive of the University's strategic aims and objectives.