GUM Statutes

Third edition

This edition took effect on 31 December 2022.

About

The GUM Statutes are the authoritative record of all permanent general legislation passed by Quorum. New provisions may be added to it at any time, but any addition **must not** change any other provision's citation. When the Statutes become too cluttered or when the chapters become too long, a new, re-organised edition must be prepared.

This document (on Google Docs) is the authoritative version of the Statutes. The document is maintained by the Permanent Office — please inform them of any errors. It's accurate as of 31 December 2022.

You can view the current charter here. You can view the first edition of the Statutes (previously called the Statutory Code) here, the second edition here, and the 2016 version here.

Amendments

Amendments are shown **[**like this**]** for insertions and replacements, and **[**~~like this~~**]** for deletions. A footnote is given for each amendment.

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Title 1: Membership

Chapter 1: Preliminary procedure

(1) **Delegation to vice-chair—** The chair may delegate any of their powers under this title to the vice-chair.

(2) **Confirming ratification—** A statement or confirmation from an applicant that they have ratified the Charter is assumed to be true; no GUM officer is liable if it is later discovered to be untrue.

(3) **Early rejection—** The chair or supreme justice must promptly reject an applicant if they are not eligible.[1] The chair, supreme justice, or safeguarding officer must promptly reject an applicant if their membership would likely create a safeguarding risk.

The chair may reject an applicant—

(a) if the chair thinks it near-certain that the membership will not approve the application or

(b) for any other reason determined by Quorum.

The supreme justice may reject an applicant if they've been found in contempt of the Supreme Court within the last year.

An applicant may only be rejected under subsection (a) before voting begins; but may be rejected for any other reason even if voting has begun.

(4) **International law—** No international law to which the GUM is a party creates any binding guarantee or bar to membership. However, an applicant's adherence to any international law may be considered when making a decision under section 3.

(5) **Applicant review—** If the chair needs time to—

(a) gather facts relevant to or

(b) consider

[1] See 7 GUMC 2(5): pursuant to a court action, any justice may exercise the supreme justice's unilateral powers (with some exceptions).

a decision under section 3, they may place an applicant under review. When placing an applicant under review, the chair must inform the applicant and the membership, and ordinarily must give a reason for the review. The chair need not start a vote on any applicant that's under review. An applicant must be kept under review for the minimum time necessary, and the chair should ordinarily provide the applicant with regular updates on their application.

(6) **Notification and overturn of rejections—** The chair, supreme justice, and safeguarding officer must inform the membership of any applicant they reject. **[**A rejection under section 3(a) or (b) may be overturned by petition from three members, presented to the chair; Quorum must then vote on the application as normal.

An application that is rejected and then has its rejection overturned may be rejected again if on the basis of information that was not available to the rejecting officer at the time of any previous rejection.**]**[2]

Chapter 2: Voting; provisional membership

(1) **Voting period—** A vote under section 2, 5, or 6 lasts for 24 hours.

(2) **First vote—** The chair must present an application to the membership promptly (unless it was rejected). Members may then vote: accept as a provisional member, deny, or accept as an observer (unless the applicant is already an observer). They may also abstain.

If the applicant doesn't receive a majority supporting acceptance, the votes to accept as a provisional member are added to the votes to accept as an observer. Following any such recalculation, an applicant becomes a provisional member or observer by majority vote. Otherwise, the application is rejected.

(3) **Rights of provisional members—** A provisional member may access all ordinary GUM venues, attend and speak at Quorum sessions, and propose motions, but they must not vote.

[2] Amended on 5 Feb 2023

(4) **Attendance requirement—** A provisional member must attend a certain number of Quorum sessions before they can become a full member. By default, this number is one, but Quorum may increase it.

(5) **Second vote—** Fourteen days after a state becomes a provisional member or whenever that state meets the requirement under section 4, whichever comes later, the chair must present the application to the membership again.

Members may then vote: promote to full membership, retain as a provisional member, offer observership (unless the applicant is already an observer), or expel (or, if the applicant is an observer, retain as an observer). They may also abstain. An applicant is promoted, offered observership, expelled (or retained as an observer) by majority vote. Otherwise, the applicant is retained as a provisional member.

An observership offer under this section is accepted by notice to the chair. If the offer is refused or if the chair does not receive a response, the applicant is retained as a provisional member.

(6) **Final vote (if applicable)—** Fourteen days after retention as a provisional member, the chair must present the application to the membership a final time.

Again, members may then vote: promote to full membership, accept as an observer (unless the applicant is already an observer), or expel (or, if the applicant is an observer, retain as an observer). They may also abstain.

If the applicant doesn't receive a majority supporting promotion, the votes to promote are added to the votes to accept as an observer. Following any such recalculation, a provisional member is promoted or accepted as an observer by majority vote. Otherwise, the provisional member is expelled or retained as an observer, as the case may be.

(7) **Total votes required—** For an applicant to—

(a) become a provisional member,

(b) be promoted to full membership,

(c) be accepted as an observer or be offered observership, or

(d) be expelled pursuant to the second vote,

at least eight votes in total must be cast. Abstentions do not count towards this minimum.

Chapter 3: Inactivity

(1) **Six-session rule—** If a member or provisional member hasn't attended or submitted a relevant advance statement to be shared at the six most recent Quorum sessions, Quorum may immediately downgrade them to observership by majority vote. A member or provisional member may be downgraded even if they attend the session in which a downgrading vote against them is tabled.

If a member or provisional member is close to having failed to attend the six most recent Quorum sessions, the chair should ordinarily warn them that they may be subject to downgrading under this section; but any failure of the chair to do so doesn't affect the validity of a vote under this section.

(2) **Application to the Supreme Court—** If a member's participation has been unsatisfactory (regardless of the six-session rule), Quorum may by majority vote file a complaint against that member with the Supreme Court, asking for an order downgrading the member to observership. The chair has an automatic right to intervene in these proceedings.

In this section, 'unsatisfactory participation' means a persistent failure to engage with the GUM's proceedings. For example, a member might only ever say 'present' in Quorum sessions or attend only enough sessions to avoid immediate downgrading.

The Supreme Court may downgrade a member for inactivity only under this section. No one other than Quorum may ask the Supreme Court to downgrade a member for inactivity.

(3) **Exemption from downgrading—** A member may apply to the chair for up to one year's exemption from downgrading under this article if the member has a good reason. The chair must inform the other members of any new exemption and the reason for it (while maintaining any relevant individuals' privacy). Quorum may overturn an exemption.

Chapter 4: Demotion

Demotion to provisional status— If the grounds for expulsion under 2 GUMC 4(1) are met, a member may be demoted to provisional membership by—

(a) a majority vote of Quorum,

(b) the chair, or

(c) the supreme justice.

The member is then subject to chapter 2(4) to (7), as though they had just passed their first vote under chapter 2(2).

2 GUMC 4(5) (expulsion of similar members) applies to this section in the same way as it applies to any expulsion; a member may only be demoted if similar members (as defined by that section) are also demoted.

Title 2: Observership

Chapter 1: Preliminary procedure

(1) **Delegation to vice-chair—** The chair may delegate any of their powers under this title to the vice-chair.

(2) **Additional eligibility requirements (organisations)—** To be eligible for observership, an organisation must have existed in substantially the same form for at least six months and—

(a) seek to further diplomacy between states, in some way (though this need not be its primary objective),

(b) consist primarily of sovereign state members,

(c) have at least five sovereign states as members.

(3) **Immediate downgrade—** A member or provisional member may at any time downgrade to observership by notice to the chair; no application is required. The chair must notify the membership of all downgrades. A member or provisional membership that downgrades under this section is not entitled to resume their membership or provisional membership; to do so, they must re-apply under the ordinary process.

(4) **Application—** A state (that is not already a member or provisional member) or organisation that wants to become an observer must apply to the chair. The chair is to determine the form of this application. Observership applicants don't have to ratify the Charter, but they're still eligible for observership if they have ratified the Charter.

(5) **Early rejection—** The chair or supreme justice must promptly reject an applicant if they are not eligible. The chair, supreme justice, or safeguarding officer must promptly reject an applicant if the state or organisation's observership would likely create a risk to vulnerable groups.

The chair may reject an applicant—

(a) if the chair thinks it near-certain that the membership will not approve the application or

(b) for any other reason determined by Quorum.

The supreme justice may reject an applicant if they've previously been found in contempt of the Supreme Court.

An applicant may only be rejected under subsection (a) before voting begins; but may be rejected for any other reason even if voting has begun.

(6) **International law—** No international law to which the GUM is a party creates any binding guarantee or bar to observership. However, an applicant's adherence to any international law may be considered when making a decision under section 5.

(7) **Notification and overturn of rejections—** The chair, supreme justice, and safeguarding officer must inform the membership of any applicant they reject. Quorum may overturn a rejection under section 5(a) or (b) by majority vote.

Chapter 2: Voting

(1) **Vote—** The chair must present an application to the membership promptly (unless it was rejected). Members may then vote: support or oppose. They may also abstain. The vote lasts for 24 hours. An applicant becomes an observer by plurality vote. Otherwise, the application is rejected.

(2) **Total votes required—** For an applicant to be accepted as an observer, at least eight votes in total must be cast. Abstentions do not count towards this minimum.

Title 3: Delegations

Chapter 1: Names

(1) **Names that may be used—** For all purposes within GUM venues, a delegate may use and be called by any name (and title) they genuinely and routinely use for micronational business (this does not have to be their legal name), and they may change this name freely. However, names that are adopted frivolously are not valid; Discord server administrators may require a delegate to use a genuine micronational name.

(2) **Providing accurate information—** A delegation must provide accurate and timely information to the GUM on the names and grades (e.g. primary delegate) of their delegates and delegation staff, and of any changes; the GUM must immediately upload this information to a public register, and update the register as required.

Chapter 2: Access

(1) **Access required to serve—** An individual begins to serve as a delegate or delegation staff member only when they are granted the appropriate permissions on the GUM Discord server. However, no state or organisation may be held liable for any failure to be represented (e.g. under 2 GUMC 4(1)(e) (general grounds for expulsion)) that is due to the GUM's unlawful failure to provide server access.

(2) **Entitlement to access—** An individual named by a delegation under is entitled to be granted server access appropriate to their grade. An individual who is not listed on the register must not be granted access beyond that which is given to the public.

(3) **Withholding access—** A Discord server administrator may withhold server access (including any increased access) if they are concerned that granting access would be unlawful or would present a safeguarding risk. The threshold for withholding access is low; in general, it is preferable to delay granting access until even minor concerns can be resolved (possible exceptions might include when access to Quorum or executive election votes is in question). A GUM officer or staff member, and the GUM as a whole, is

not liable for any good faith decision to withhold access under this section, but may be liable for a failure to withhold access.

(4) **Capacity—** A Discord server administrator may withhold server access from any individual if they are concerned that the individual in question was appointed to a delegation role by an official who did not have capacity (e.g. because of intoxication), until they can be sure that the appointment was made by an official with capacity. A GUM officer or staff member, and the GUM as a whole, is not liable for any good faith action taken under this section, nor any decision to not take action.

Title 4: Rules of conduct

Chapter 1: General

(1) **Application—** The rules under this title apply to all conduct—

(a) in GUM venues,

(b) when involved in GUM affairs (which includes reporting on the GUM as a journalist),

(c) when representing the GUM, or

(d) in relation to the sharing of information that is only available to GUM delegation members or any subset of such (whether obtained directly or indirectly).

They apply regardless of whether someone is acting in a personal capacity or an official capacity.

(2) **Inchoate breaches—** A person may not—

(a) be an accessory to a breach of,

(b) attempt to breach,

(c) coerce someone to breach,

(d) conspire to breach,

(e) incite someone or a group of people to breach, or

(f) solicit someone to breach,

the rules of conduct.

Chapter 2: Macronational affairs; safeguarding

(1) **Macronational law; terms of service—** Everyone must comply with all macronational laws that apply to them and, when using Discord, the Discord terms of service.

(2) **Duty to report—** Anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk must report it to either the chair, vice-chair, supreme justice, or safeguarding officer, unless there is a compelling reason not to (for example, if the person has already notified macronational authorities, or if making a report would increase risk).

Chapter 3: Personal conduct

(1) **Endangerment—** No one may endanger or threaten to endanger someone else's health, safety, or wellbeing.

(2) **Privacy—** Everyone must respect the privacy of others. Amongst other things, this means—

(a) using someone's preferred name, pronouns, and form of address;

(b) respecting that someone's name and identity in micronational affairs may differ from their macronational legal identity, and not releasing details of their macronational legal identity without their permission;

(c) not recording or publishing someone's image or voice without their permission, regardless of the publication medium.

(3) **Harassment; abuse—** No one may harass or abuse others. Harassment includes but is not limited to—

(a) conduct which has the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment for another person or a group of people;

(b) an attempt to—

(i) pressurise or intimidate someone into doing a particular thing, or

(ii) subject someone to a detriment for exercising their rights (especially including their right to vote).

Harassment or abuse is aggravated if it is motivated by hate due to any of the following personal characteristics: age; disability; gender; gender reassignment; nationality; race; religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation.

(4) **Discrimination—** No one may unlawfully discriminate against others, either directly or indirectly, based on any of the following personal characteristics: age; disability; gender; gender reassignment; nationality; race; religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation.

(5) **Intellectual property—** Everyone must respect the intellectual property of others.

(6) **Dishonesty—** No one may engage in bribery (or the acceptance of a bribe), corruption, forgery, fraud, extortion, entrapment, the making of false allegations, the publishing of fake news, or other similar dishonest behaviour.

(7) **Impersonation; sockpuppeting—** No one may impersonate anyone else, nor create a false identity ('sockpuppet').

Chapter 4: GUM venues and proceedings

(1) **Decorum; disorder—** Everyone must maintain high standards of decorum in formal venues (including but not limited to the Quorum chamber and the Supreme Court courtroom). No one may unreasonably disturb or disrupt any GUM venue.

(2) **Damage to online services—** No one may damage or vandalise the GUM's online services (e.g. the main Discord server).

(3) **Perjury—** No one may knowingly give false information with the intent of misleading a GUM authority (including but not limited to Quorum, the Executive, or the Supreme Court).

(4) **Confidentiality; privileged information—** No one may unlawfully or improperly disclose any confidential or privileged information, or any other information in respect of which GUM law prohibits or restricts disclosure.

(5) **Obstruction; evidence tampering—** No one may unreasonably obstruct any GUM proceeding, investigation, or officer in their conduct of their duties. No one may withhold, hide, alter, fabricate, or destroy evidence relevant to an upcoming or ongoing GUM proceeding or investigation.

(6) **Refusal to comply with an investigatory order—** No one may, without other lawful reason, refuse to comply with an investigatory order.

(7) **Legal malpractice—** No one advising any other party on GUM law, or any other law with respect to an ongoing or upcoming Supreme Court proceeding, may in the course of doing so—

(a) mislead that party as their legal knowledge, experience, or ability;
(b) deliberately fail to act in that party's best interest;
(c) deliberately provide false or misleading information or advice
(d) be otherwise grossly negligent.

Chapter 5: GUM officers

(1) **Gross negligence—** When in any GUM office or staff position, no one may grossly neglect their duty.

(2) **Conflicts of interest—** When in any GUM office or staff position, no one may fail to reveal a substantial conflict of interest that relates to any decision they are involved in making or any proceeding or investigation they are involved in overseeing.

Chapter 6: Votes and elections

(1) **Multiple votes—** No one may cast, or organise or knowingly allow the casting of, multiple votes in any election or other vote (e.g. Quorum motion, GUMHC nomination) with the intent of influencing that election's or vote's result.

(2) **Unauthorised voting—** No one who is not appropriately authorised by a member's government or the primary delegate of a member's delegation may cast a vote on behalf of that member in any election or other vote.

(3) **Other members' votes—** No one may make a statement alleging or implying that any member voted a certain way in any secret vote if that person is not part of that member's delegation.

(4) **Preventing lawful voting—** No one (A) may prevent any other person (B) from casting a lawful vote in any election or vote (or prevent any such vote from being correctly counted) against B's wishes or without B's knowledge.

(5) **Bribery—** No one (A) may offer (directly or indirectly, explicitly, or implicitly) a delegate (B) any reward in order to incline B to vote a certain way in any election or vote. In the

case of elections, a reward includes a promise to, if elected, appoint, consider for appointment, or nominate a person (either B or a third person) to or for any office or staff position.

(6) **Accepting a bribe—** No one may accept a bribe under section 5.

(7) **Dishonest campaigning—** In the course of campaigning in any election or vote, no one may knowingly make a false or misleading statement with the intent of influencing a delegate to vote a certain way.

(8) **Other electoral or voting malpractice—** Otherwise than as specified in sections (1)-(7), no one may engage in any activity that undermines or that creates a reasonably foreseeable risk of undermining the integrity of an executive election or other vote.

Title 5: Discipline

Chapter 1: Types of action

(1) **Warning—** A warning is a notice to a delegation member that their conduct, if continued or repeated, is likely to result in more serious disciplinary action; it has no legal force.

(2) **Censure—** A censure is a strong formal condemnation of a delegation member without legal force.

(3) **Suspension—** A suspended delegation member may not participate in GUM venues or events for their suspension's duration. If there is a compelling reason, the relevant body or officer may also prohibit a delegation member from observing any GUM venue or event for their suspension's duration.

The relevant body or officer may state that a suspension applies to only specific GUM venues (including Discord channels) and events; but if they do not, the suspension applies to all venues and events.

A suspended delegate may not be nominated or appointed to any office or staff position, may not stand for election, and may not vote in any Quorum or membership or observership proceeding. However, they may still vote in executive elections, and may retain any office or staff position they held at the time of suspension.

(4) **Ban—** A banned individual is excluded from GUM venues and events either permanently (unless their ban is lifted) or for a fixed period. A GUM officer may not be banned.

(5) **Kick—** A kicked individual is removed from the GUM's Discord server, but is free to re-join at any time. A delegation member may not be kicked.

Chapter 2: General powers

(1) **Ordinary disciplinary power—** If a delegation member—

(a) breaks the rules of conduct,

(b) acts outside the GUM in a way that reasonably suggests they'd likely break the rules of conduct in future, or

(c) otherwise severely prejudices the GUM's integrity, stability, or reputation

they may be—

(d) suspended, by Quorum, the chair, the vice-chair, or the supreme justice;

(e) censured or banned, by Quorum or the chair only.

A body or officer who takes disciplinary action under this section may reverse that same action at their discretion. Quorum may reverse any disciplinary action taken under this section.

(2) **Discipline for breaking GUM law; contempt of court—** If—

(a) the supreme justice finds that someone has broken GUM law or

(b) the Supreme Court finds that someone has broken GUM law or is in contempt of court,

the supreme justice or Supreme Court respectively may censure, suspend, or ban them. The supreme justice and the Court may reverse any disciplinary action they take; Quorum may reverse any ban or any action taken by the supreme justice unilaterally. In this section, 'GUM law' does not include the rules of conduct.

(3) **Banning of others—** If anyone who is not a delegation member—

(a) breaks the rules of conduct,

(b) acts outside the GUM in a way that reasonably suggests they'd likely break the rules of conduct in future (even if they'd need to enter a GUM venue to be able to do so) or

(c) prejudices the GUM's integrity, stability, or reputation

Quorum or the chair may ban them. Quorum may lift any ban imposed under this section; the chair may lift any ban under this section that they imposed themselves.

(4) **Elections—** Sections (1)-(3), so far as they relate to—

(a) banning or the lifting of any ban by anyone other than Quorum or the Supreme Court,

(b) suspension or censure by anyone other than the Supreme Court

do not apply if the conduct in question relates to an upcoming or ongoing executive election.

(5) **Disruptive conduct—** Any staff member with the necessary Discord permissions may kick a person from the server if they are being disruptive or disorderly. However, that person is entitled either to readmittance, or to be suspended or banned. Any such readmittance may be delayed for a reasonable time until a decision on disciplinary action can be made.

Chapter 3: Extending suspensions

(1) **Quorum's power to decide—** In the first instance, any suspension lasts until the next Quorum session. This session should ordinarily take place promptly; if the next ordinary Quorum session is scheduled to be more than two weeks away, the chair must consider holding an emergency session.

At this session, Quorum may vote to lift a suspension, ban the delegation member (unless they are a GUM officer), or extend the suspension (see section 2).[3] The discussion leading to this vote must observe the rules of natural justice. This includes but is not limited to allowing the suspended delegation member to represent themselves, or have counsel represent them, or both (unless they or their counsel are disruptive).

If Quorum takes no action, the suspension is automatically lifted. If a suspension is lifted (automatically or otherwise), no one can re-suspend the delegation member for the same reason unless information is available that wasn't available when the suspension was imposed.

(2) **Extending a suspension—** Quorum may extend a suspension under section 1 by up to one month at a time, and for up to six months in total (not including the period prior to Quorum's decision under section 3). In the motion extending a suspension, Quorum must state a compelling reason for the extension.

[3] If members want to ban a GUM officer, they must first remove them by vote of no confidence. Then they are free to ban the delegate.

Chapter 4: Elections; politically-sensitive cases

(1) **Breaking electoral law—** If someone would be liable to disciplinary action under chapter 2(1)-(2) were it not for chapter 2(4), the director general, advocate general, or (if they are a different person) the election administrator may suspend or censure them.

(2) **Candidacy prohibition; termination—** If someone is suspended under section 1 for bribery or another serious offence, the election administrator may prohibit that person from being a candidate in the next executive election (removing them from their ticket if they have already declared); if voting has begun or is complete, the election administrator may terminate that ticket (but the ballot form is not to be altered). This decision may be overturned by only the Supreme Court.

(3) **Counting votes—** If a ticket is terminated under section 2 while voting is ongoing or before the final result is released, all ballots are to be treated as though the ticket did not exist (e.g. a ballot that ranked the terminated ticket second would be amended, making its third preference its second preference).

(4) **Suspension or ban during an election—** If a candidate for executive election is suspended or banned at least 48 hours before voting begins, for any reason, their candidacy is void, unless the suspension or ban is lifted before voting begins.

If the suspension or ban occurs later than 48 hours before voting begins, that ticket continues; but if that ticket subsequently wins the election, the suspended or banned candidate may only take office if the suspension or ban is lifted.

(5) **Re-awarding the election—** If, after it is announced that a ticket won the election,

(a) that ticket is terminated under section 2 or

(b) at the time the candidates are to take office, the chair candidate is suspended for any reason

then the election is awarded to the runner-up instead.

(6) **Time limit—** A ticket may be terminated under section 2 at any time until voting closes, or, if the ticket wins the election (including under section 5), at any time until the candidates take office.

(7) **Suspension of the vice-chair-elect—** If, at the time the vice-chair-elect is to take office, they are suspended for any reason, they may not take office, and the rules for a casual vacancy of the vice-chair's office apply.

Chapter 5: Warnings

(1) **Warning—** The chair or vice-chair may issue a warning to anyone whose conduct, if continued or repeated, is likely to result in disciplinary action. Any number of warnings may be issued to someone without any further consequence.

(2) **Relation to other disciplinary action—** A person need not have received any warning before any other disciplinary action is taken, and a warning does not necessarily mean that more severe action will be taken if the conduct in question is continued or repeated.

(3) **Public log—** The chair and vice-chair must issue warnings where they can be seen by all delegation members, and record all warnings on a log viewable either by delegation members or the public.

Chapter 6: Investigatory powers

(1) **Investigatory order—** An officer with the power to take disciplinary action who believes that the use of that power may be warranted in a particular case may make an investigatory order. An investigatory order requires a delegation member to provide the officer with certain evidence or to answer certain questions truthfully.[4]

(2) **Conditions—**An investigatory order may be made only if—

(a) it will likely help establish whether disciplinary action is warranted because of the conduct in question,

(b) there is no other reasonable way for the officer to obtain the evidence or information in question, and

(c) the justice consideration outweighs the privacy consideration.

[4] However, privileges still apply (see Title 12 [information]).

The justice consideration means the harm to the public interest and the interests of justice that would occur or would be likely to occur if the officer was unable to pursue their investigation. The privacy consideration means the infringement on any person's right to privacy that would or would be likely to occur if the order was made.

(3) **Informing others—** Such an order need not be made publicly, but the officer must inform—

(a) the director general and the advocate general, but

(b) if either of the above is a subject in the investigation, not that officer, but the chair instead;

(c) if all of the above are a subject in the investigation, not those officers, but the supreme justice instead.

Chapter 7: Conflicts of interest; complex cases

(1) **Conflicts of interest—** An officer may not take disciplinary action if they have a substantial conflict of interest. If an officer ('the requiring officer') with the power to take disciplinary action—

(a) believes that action may be warranted in a particular case but

(b) has a conflict of interest,

and no other officer with the powers that the requiring officer believes are required is able or willing to consider the case, then the officer may require that the director general consider and handle the case instead. A request to the director general under this section may not be withdrawn.

(2) **Complex cases—** If an officer ('the requiring officer') with the power to take disciplinary action—

(a) believes that action may be warranted in a particular case but

(b) believes that the case is particularly complex or sensitive,

the officer may require that the director general consider and handle the case instead. A request to the director general under this section may be withdrawn.

(3) **Powers—** In considering and handling the case, the director general may exercise any power that the requiring officer would have been able to exercise. Rules for the reversal of any disciplinary action apply as though the action was taken by the requiring officer.

(4) **Delegation to the advocate general—** The director general may delegate their powers and responsibilities under sections 1-3 to the advocate general on a permanent or case-by-case basis.

Chapter 8: Judicial review

(1) **Judicial review—** Unless otherwise provided, any disciplinary action may be challenged by judicial review. A suspended or banned individual challenging such suspension or ban must be allowed access to the Supreme Court's venues for this purpose; but such access may be revoked if the individual is disruptive.

(2) **Challenging a warning—** The Supreme Court must automatically dismiss any claim challenging a warning unless the complaint alone (and any supplementary evidence filed with the complaint) shows significant credible evidence that the warning was unlawful and that the person subject to the warning suffered serious harm as a result of the warning.

Title 6: Quorum

Chapter 1: General

(1) **GUM Statutes—** The Statutes are the authoritative record of all the legislation it contains. To ensure compliance with 1 GUMC 3(1) (accessibility), minor non-substantive changes may be made to a motion's text when it is added to the Statutes.

The Statutes are to be published in editions, but new legislation may be added to the current edition at any time. However, the addition of new legislation mustn't change any other provision's citation.

(2) **Advance statements—** If a member or provisional member knows it cannot attend an upcoming session, that delegation may send statements to the chair about any agenda item; the session chair must share these statements during the session.

(3) **Questions to the chair—** When either the chair or vice-chair is chairing a session, they must make time to take and answer questions from delegates.

(4) **Offices that confer the right to chair Quorum—** The supreme justice, director general, and safeguarding officer may all chair Quorum.

Chapter 2: Voting

(1) **Voting period—** The voting period for ordinary Quorum motions is 24 hours. If the motion is critically urgent and a decision is needed sooner, the session chair may reduce the voting period by as much as is reasonably necessary. Votes on procedural motions that apply only to the conduct of an ongoing session last only as long as the session chair specifies.

(2) **Voting procedure—** All ordinary Quorum votes are to use either a Discord bot or a reaction voting system.

Title 7: Executive

Chapter 1: Secretaries

Secretary's offices— The following secretary's offices are to exist:

(a) the communications secretary's office, responsible for—

(i) the GUM's public relations and its media policy and

(ii) collecting, analysing, and publishing statistics related to the GUM's business, the GUM's members and observers, and the micronational community at large;

(b) the events secretary's office, responsible for organising events and summits of any sort;

(c) the **[**recruitment secretary, responsible for—

(i) promoting GUM membership and observership to non-members and non-observers;

(ii) vetting and advising the GUM on membership and observership applicants;

(iii) otherwise, helping the chair and vice-chair handle applications and other related matters.**]**[5]

Chapter 2: Public relations

Public relations— The communications secretary must maintain an official GUM news website, and official GUM accounts on Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

Chapter 3: Advisors to the chair

Advisors to the chair— Quorum may appoint and dismiss any previous chair as an advisor to the current chair. Quorum may appoint any number of advisors. The role is partly honorary, and advisors are not members of the Executive.

[5] Amended on 22 Jan 2023

Title 8: Elections

Chapter 1: Timetable; pre-voting

(1) **Ordinary election timetable—** Ordinary executive elections are to begin on—

(a) for the January-June term, December 16;

(b) for the July-December term, June 16.

(2) **Special election timetable—** Quorum must meet as soon as possible after a special executive election is required to decide an alternative election timetable; Quorum may amend any statutory deadline or timed action. The alternative timetable must be reasonable in comparison to the ordinary timetable, and swift.

(3) **Campaign ban—** A delegate may announce their candidacy for chair or vice-chair at any time, but no one may campaign for or endorse any candidate until three weeks before the election begins. The election administrator must open a channel on the GUM Discord server for official candidacy announcements five weeks before the election begins.

(4) **Qualification—** A candidate for election as chair must hold either GUM Administrative Certification or GUM Legal Certification.

(5) **Campaign spending guidance and rules—** The election administrator may publish non-binding guidance, binding rules, or both relating to how much and in what way campaigns may spend money. A provision is only enforceable as a rule if it's clearly marked as such. The administrator may amend campaign spending guidance and rules over the course of the election. Before making or amending any guidance or rules, the administrator must consider any commitments to purchase goods or services that a campaign or individual may have made in reliance on the current guidance and rules.

(6) **Withdrawing—** A candidate may withdraw from an election at any time until voting starts, but not after.

Chapter 2: Voting

(1) **Ballot form—** The election administrator must share the ballot form with the campaigns for every ticket before voting begins, so that the campaigns may raise any objections or concerns in good time.

(2) **Voting—** Each member may cast one vote in the election. A state that becomes a member during the voting period is eligible to vote.

A member casts a valid vote by indicating an order of preference for the joint tickets ('ranking'). A ranking may list all the tickets, a selection of the tickets, only one ticket, or no tickets. A member may announce its own vote at any time. However, each vote must be cast privately, so that only the election administrator can see them.

A member may not change its vote after casting it, even if it was not cast by the member's primary delegate.

Chapter 3: Determining the winner

(1) **Election validator—** There is to be an election validator, who is the most senior justice who is not a candidate in the election and who is not the election administrator. If there is no such justice available, then no provision relating to the rights or powers of the election validator applies.

(2) **Counting votes—** A ticket is credited with all first preference votes for them and any votes transferred to them. If, at any stage of the count, a ticket is credited with a simple majority of votes, that ticket wins the election.

If, after all the votes are credited to their first preference ticket, no ticket has won the election, then the ticket with the lowest number of credited votes is excluded from the election, and the first preference votes for that ticket are transferred to the other tickets according to those votes' next available preference. This process is repeated until a ticket wins the election.

If—

(a) two or more tickets are credited with the same number of votes,

(b) that number is the lowest number of votes credited to any ticket, and

(c) these tickets are not the only tickets that remain,

then the following procedure applies:

Step one: For each tied ticket, add up the number of ballots (including ballots credited to a ticket that has since been excluded) not transferred to them that rank the ticket second.

Step two: If there are no such ballots, or if the lowest number of second preferences is shared between multiple tickets, repeat step one using third preferences, and so on.

Step three: Exclude only the ticket with the lowest number of second (or third, etc., as appropriate) preferences.

(3) **Ties; split terms—** If two tickets are credited with the same number of votes and there are no tickets left to be excluded, both candidates for chair may agree together to split the term. For the first three months, one ticket will serve as chair and vice-chair; for the second three months, the other ticket must either serve or explicitly decline to serve (in which case, the first ticket continues).

If the tie is between three or more tickets, if the chair candidates choose not to split the term, or if they cannot agree which candidate should serve first, the election administrator, or, if the election administrator has a conflict of interest, the election validator, is to break the tie by lot.

Chapter 4: Releasing results

(1) **Sharing turnout—** During the voting period, the election administrator may regularly publicly announce the current turnout, but they must not indicate the number of votes cast for any ticket. They may not announce which members have and have not voted.

(2) **Sharing interim results—** During the voting period, the election administrator may inform the candidates of the current results, provided that—

(a) all candidates are informed,

(b) all candidates are informed at the same time and

(c) the election administrator makes an order under 1 GUMS 3(2) restricting knowledge of the results to the candidates only and expressly prohibiting the candidates from informing their campaigns.

(3) **Guaranteed winner—** If, before the voting period has ended, one ticket is guaranteed to win the election, the election administrator may announce the winner immediately. However, the voting period will continue as per 6 GUMC 2(5).

(4) **Jigsaw identification; harassment—** In sharing any information under sections (1)-(3), the election administrator must have serious regard to the risks of—

(a) jigsaw identification being used to determine or provide strong evidence as to which members have voted or which way a member has voted;

(b) members being harassed to vote or to vote a certain way.

(5) **Statements indicating results—** No delegate with knowledge of interim results, the final result before it is announced, or any other information that has not been shared by the election administrator may make any statement to delegation members at large which indicates or implies that information.

(6) **Reviewing results—** Before the results of an executive election are publicly announced, the election validator must review the election administrator's counting of votes. For this purpose, the election validator must have full access to all votes.

Chapter 5: Turnout; no winner

(1) **Minimum turnout—** 30% of members must cast a vote (including abstentions) for an executive election to be valid.

(2) **No winner—** If—

(a) the minimum turnout requirement is not met, or

(b) a majority of members do not include any tickets in their ranking,

then the election must be repeated as soon as possible. The previous candidates may renominate themselves, and any other qualified delegate may also run. The previous chair will remain in office until the new chair is elected.

Title 9: Supreme Court

Chapter 1: Justices; lawyers

(1) **Qualification of justices—** A candidate for election as supreme justice or an associate justice nominee must hold GUM Legal Certification.

(2) **Providing advice—** A justice may provide legal advice to the GUM except in relation to upcoming or ongoing litigation. The prior provision of advice may constitute a conflict of interest, but this is to be determined under the Court's ordinary rules for assigning justices.

(3) **Special justices—** If there aren't enough available justices without conflicts of interest to hear a particular action, the supreme justice or the chair may nominate as many delegates as necessary to serve as special justices. A special justice takes office if they are confirmed by Quorum. A special justice may only hear the action they were nominated to hear. The chair and vice-chair may not serve as special justices.

(4) **Qualification of lawyers—** A party or lawyer representing a party before the Supreme Court is not required to hold GUM Legal Certification, unless otherwise provided by binding rules made by the supreme justice (see chapter 3).

Chapter 2: International jurisdiction

(5) **GUM parties—** 'GUM party' means any of the following: the GUM, any GUM officer or agency, a GUM member, or a GUM delegation member.

(6) **Actions arising under international law—** Under 7 GUMC 1(3), the Supreme Court's jurisdiction is expanded to cover any action arising under international law (including a contract or other agreement not governed by any domestic micronational law) when each party consents to the Court's jurisdiction.

A treaty, contract, or other agreement governed by international law (or that isn't governed by any domestic micronational law) may require that its signatories consent to

the Supreme Court's jurisdiction under this section for the purpose of any action to enforce the agreement.

(7) **Refusal by the supreme justice—** If an action under section 1 is started by a non-GUM party, the supreme justice may refuse to exercise the Supreme Court's jurisdiction, on behalf of the entire Court.

(8) **Severing non-consenting defendants—** If an action under section 1 is brought against multiple defendants, the Court may sever any non-consenting defendant from the action if it would be in accordance with the overriding objective to do so.

Chapter 3: Procedure

(1) **Power to decide procedure—** The Court may decide its own procedure in accordance with widely-accepted norms, except for when there's already written law.

(2) **Supreme Court Rules—** The supreme justice may, with the director general's approval, make binding rules and non-binding guidance governing the Supreme Court proceedings; such rules and guidance take effect when they are published. Quorum may amend these rules and guidance, and may veto any rule or guidance made by the supreme justice. The supreme justice may not make any rule or guidance in respect of which they or the director general has a current conflict of interest.

Chapter 4: Judicial review

(1) **Judicial review rights to be additional to other rights—** The right of judicial review is in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other rights that a party has to seek a review, whether by a court or by another tribunal, authority or party, of the relevant enactment, decision, conduct or failure.

(2) **Change in person holding, or performing the duties of, an office—** Where a person no longer holds or for whatever reason is not performing the duties of an office amenable to judicial review, a claim for judicial review may be made against—

(a) the person for the time being holding or performing the duties of that office or

(b) if there is no person for the time being performing the duties of that office or that office no longer exists, the chair.

(3) **Severability—** If any provision or the application thereof is held to be invalid, no related provision or application is to be affected, unless the court considers that they are inseparable from the invalid provision or application.

(4) **Duty of candour—** In any judicial review proceeding, the GUM must give a full and fair account of its decision making, and proactively offer any relevant information that it holds, even if doing so would damage its case.

Chapter 5: Particular proceedings

(1) **Investigations—** An investigation's purpose is to obtain and analyse facts. The Court has jurisdiction to investigate a matter if an action arising from that matter would be under the Court's jurisdiction.

(2) **Advisory opinions—** Any member, provisional member, observer, or delegation member may submit a request ('reference') to the Court for a non-binding advisory opinion on a question of law (advisory opinions must not consider questions of fact). The Court must answer a reference unless it doesn't raise a question of law of general importance, raises matters on which the law is already clear, or is excessively vague, frivolous, or vexatious. The supreme justice may also issue an advisory opinion without any reference being submitted.

(3) **Appeals—** A party has a general right to appeal adverse judgements, orders, or decisions, but this right may be restricted by the Supreme Court Rules (e.g. by deadlines for filing an appeal, by requiring a party to apply for permission to appeal, etc.).

Title 10: Heritage Council

Chapter 1: General

(1) **GUM Heritage Council—** There is to be a GUM Heritage Council ('the Council'), responsible for creating and maintaining a public database of significant micronational sites, cultural works, and documents.

(2) **Meetings—** The Council's business runs continuously. The Council's proceedings must be open to all delegation members.

(3) **Rules and guidance—** The Council may make rules and non-binding guidance to govern its own proceedings; all such rules and guidance must be approved by majority vote of the Council.

Chapter 2: The Convenor

(1) **Responsibilities—** The Council is led by a convenor, nominated by the chair and confirmed by Quorum. There is no limit to the number of terms, consecutive or otherwise, that the convenor may serve. The convenor is responsible for—

  (a) arranging and chairing Council meetings,

  (b) administering the Council's business

  (c) promoting the Council's work, and

  (d) reporting on the Council's work to Quorum.

(2) **Term; removal—** The convenor serves for a three-month term. The convenor may be removed from office by vote of no confidence only; if they are removed, a new convenor must be appointed immediately to serve a new three-month term.

(3) **Voting power—** The convenor may vote in all Council proceedings.

Chapter 3: Selecting assessors; pool

(1) **Assessors—** In addition to the convenor, the Council consists of four assessors, who serve concurrent one-month terms. The convenor may not also serve as an assessor.

(2) **Pool—** There is to be a pool, initially consisting of all members.

(3) **Appointment—** Each month, the convenor must randomly select four members from the pool. Each member selected may appoint one of their delegates to the Council. If a selected member doesn't appoint a delegate within three days, they are taken to have declined the seat; the convenor must then randomly select another member until all four seats are filled.

(4) **Convenor's state's eligibility—** A member is eligible to be selected even if one of its delegates is serving as convenor.

(5) **Pool cycle—** After being selected from the pool, a member is removed from the pool (regardless of whether the member declined their seat). When the pool is exhausted, all members are re-added. The period between re-adding all members and the pool being exhausted is a 'cycle.'

If, when new assessors are due to be appointed, there are less than four members remaining in the pool, those remaining members are selected, and then all members are re-added to the pool and any additional required members are selected.

(6) **Addition to the pool; loss and resumption of membership—** A state is added to the pool as soon as they become a member. However, if a member is selected, but then loses and later resumes their membership within the same cycle, they are not added to the pool until a new cycle begins.

Chapter 4: Removal from the pool

(1) **No delegates available—** If a member has no delegates representing it (due to suspension, banning, or any other reason) or if a member's only active delegate is the

convenor, that member is temporarily removed from the pool until it does have a delegate who is not the convenor.

(2) **Contempt of court—** If the Supreme Court finds a member or a delegate in contempt of court in any proceeding, the Court may order that the member (or the member for which the delegate was serving at the time they were found in contempt) be removed from the pool for up to three months.

Chapter 5: Assessors (removal, etc.)

(1) **Removal—** An assessor may be removed by vote of no confidence only.

(2) **Ceasing of delegacy; switching delegation—** If an assessor ceases to be a delegate during their term or switches to a different delegation, the member that appointed them may appoint a different delegate from their delegation.

(3) **Casual vacancies—** A casual vacancy arises if—

(a) a member eligible to appoint a replacement delegate under section 2 does not do so within three days, or does not have any delegates with which to do so,

(b) an assessor's sending state ceases to be a member, or

(c) an assessor is removed by vote of no confidence.

If a casual vacancy arises, the chair must appoint a replacement delegate from a member currently in the pool; such appointment does not remove that member from the pool.

(4) **Suspension—** If a delegate is suspended, they temporarily cease to hold their seat, but may resume their seat when their suspension ends. For the duration of their suspension, the state that appointed them may temporarily appoint a different delegate under section 2; any subsequent appointment under section 3 is also temporary.

Chapter 6: Nominations

(1) **Database categories—** The database may consist of the following categories and subcategories of entry only:

  (a) sites, including—

    (i) natural history sites,

    (ii) cultural heritage sites, and

    (iii) monuments,

  (b) cultural works, and

  (c) documents.

(2) **Nomination—** Any state (regardless of membership or observership status) may nominate a site, cultural work, or document for entry into the Council's database at any time. The convenor is to determine the form of this nomination.

A site may be nominated only by a state which can demonstrate that site's cultural significance to that state and its citizenship. A document with official significance in a state (e.g. a constitution, an act) may be nominated only by that state. A cultural work or any other document may be nominated by any state.

Chapter 7: Procedure for handling nominations

(1) **Immediate rejection—** The convenor may reject a nomination on receipt if it is clearly unsuitable, repetitive, frivolous, or vexatious; any rejection must be reported to the membership. The convenor must then place all other nominations before the Council.

(2) **Four-application limit—** The Council must handle all nominations it receives immediately and – as far as possible – in order, up to a maximum of four per month. A rejection under section 1 does not count towards this limit. Any further nominations received must be placed in a queue; each month, nominations in the queue must be handled before any newly-received applications.

(3) **Discussion—** The convenor must allow assessors to discuss nominations and nominators to respond to questions or concerns, but otherwise, notwithstanding any

rules or guidance made by the Council, the Council's procedure is as the convenor determines.

(4) **Vote; reporting—** For each nomination, the Council must decide by majority vote whether or not to add the site, work, or document to the database. The convenor must report the outcome of all votes to the membership.

(5) **Quorum's power to overturn—** Quorum may overturn any admission or rejection by either the convenor or the Council.

(6) **[Accreditation—** The convenor or any assessor may nominate a database entry for accreditation. There are three categories of accreditation, and a site or work may be nominated for any number simultaneously. The categories are:

(a) intermicronational, for a site or work with demonstrable shared cultural significance across multiple micronations;

(b) regional, for a site or work that has demonstrable cultural significance to a particular regional, cultural or ethnic subset within a micronation;

(c) organisational, for a site or work with demonstrable significance to an independent organisation within a micronation, or to the GUM.

Accreditation is granted by majority vote, and must then be displayed alongside the database entry.**]**[6]

Chapter 8: Removing database entries

(1) **Removal by Council—** The Council may remove a database entry at any time, by majority vote, if—

(a) the nature or circumstances of the site, work, or document in question have substantially changed since the site, work, or document was added to the database (e.g. because of damage, destruction, vandalism, removal), or

[6] Inserted on 20 February 2023

(b) the Council becomes aware of new information that, if it had been available when the nomination was handled, would likely have resulted in rejection (either by the convenor or via an ordinary Council vote).

(2) **Consultation—** Before removing a database entry, the Council must if possible consult with the nominating state.

(3) **Power of other bodies and officials—** Quorum may remove a database entry at any time. No other body or official may remove or order the removal of a database entry.

Title 11: Permanent Office

Chapter 1: Director general

(1) **Responsibilities—** The director general is responsible for—

(a) overseeing and coordinating the work of the deputy directors;

(b) assisting the deputy directors;

(c) fulfilling any responsibility of a deputy director when the deputy director is unable to do so;

(d) routine record keeping (e.g. membership and observership records);

(e) any responsibility assigned to the Permanent Office in the Charter that is not the responsibility of a deputy director.

(2) **Age requirement—** The director general must be at least 18 years old.

~~(3) **[Qualification—** The director general must hold GUM Legal Certification.~~] Abolished 15 June 2023

(4) **Extended power—** The director general may assume any responsibility and exercise any power of any deputy director, except those of the safeguarding officer.

Chapter 2: Advocate general

(1) **Advocate general—** There is to be a deputy director of legal services (‘advocate general’), responsible for—

(a) representing the GUM in court;

(b) advising the GUM on litigation;

(c) assisting with the provision of legal advice to the GUM;

(d) assisting with the drafting of motions, legislation, and charter amendments;

(e) assisting with legal administration.

(2) **Eligibility—** The advocate general and any assistant advocates general may not serve as a justice.

(3) **Qualification—** The advocate general and any assistant advocates general must hold GUM Legal Certification.

(4) **Assistant advocates-general—** The advocate general may assign litigation to assistant advocates general.

Chapter 3: Registrar

(1) **Registrar—** There is to be a deputy director of court administration ('registrar'), responsible for—

(a) the Supreme Court's administration (e.g. keeping court records, publishing court notices, communicating with parties between hearings)

(b) assisting the justices with drafting judgements

(c) providing general legal advice to parties

(d) assisting with the provision of legal advice to the justices and the wider GUM;

(e) assisting with the drafting of motions, legislation, and charter amendments.

(2) **Qualification—** The registrar must hold GUM Legal Certification.

(3) **Nomination—** The registrar is to be nominated by the supreme justice, rather than by the chair.

(4) **Access—** Unless otherwise ordered by the supreme justice, the registrar must have full access to all court proceedings, including the justices' chambers and private hearings.

Chapter 4: Archivist

Archivist— There is to be a deputy director of archives ('archivist'), responsible for—

(a) keeping any records that are not maintained by the director general;

(b) maintaining any MicroWiki pages relating to the GUM;

(c) collecting, organising, and storing documents for archival purposes;

(d) providing the GUM Heritage Council with archival and general administrative support;

(e) assisting the communications secretary with maintaining the GUM's online presence (e.g. website, social media) and drafting Quorum minutes.

Chapter 5: Technology officer

Technology officer— There is to be a deputy director of technology ('technology officer'), responsible for maintaining technical and communications infrastructure, providing access control, and assisting with any other technical matter.

Chapter 6: Mentors

Mentors— There are to be a number of mentors, responsible for—

(a) promoting decorum across the GUM Discord server's non-procedural channels;

(b) answering questions from and giving advice to delegation members and applicants for membership or observership.

The director general may appoint any delegate (including an observer delegate) as a mentor, and may dismiss a mentor at any time.

Title 12: Information

Explanatory note

This title is about how information may be shared, what information must be kept confidential, what information may be kept private, how whistleblowers are protected, and how delegation members may request information held by the GUM.

This note summarises how the law works.

Some information can never be shared
Under GUM law, information may **never** be shared if not even a whistleblower may share it (chapter 2, section 3). This includes information of which the disclosure would violate macronational law, information which the safeguarding officer has ordered must stay confidential, and similar.

Information which may only be shared by a whistleblower
There is some information that may never be shared, **unless** lawfully shared by a whistleblower (chapter 3, section 2). This includes other people's personal data, information subject to a confidentiality order (e.g. made by the chair or the Supreme Court), communications between a lawyer and their client, confidential information obtained by a journalist, and similar.

Right to refuse to share information
Then, there is information that a party may legally **refuse to share** (chapter 3, section 3). This includes that party's own personal data, and information that would expose that party to legal liability (a right against self-incrimination).

Waiver
Most of these protections can be **waived** by certain people (chapter 3, section 4).

Confidentiality in GUM venues
There are general confidentiality rules that apply across the GUM, but **these rules are weaker**; they may be subject to court orders, freedom of information (FOI) requests, and similar. For example, information about what other delegation members have said in GUM venues can't be shared outside the GUM (although quotes may be shared without attribution). These rules, and the power to make confidentiality orders, are set out in chapter 5.

Freedom of information
Finally, delegation members have a **right to view** any information held by the GUM (chapter 4). This is subject to exemptions, including privileged information, secret election data, or information that would prejudice an investigation. Information shared under FOI still cannot be shared outside the GUM.

Chapter 1: Confidentiality orders

(1) **Confidentiality requested by GUM officer—** Notwithstanding any other law, court order, or Quorum motion, delegation members must keep any information confidential to any extent ordered by Quorum, the Supreme Court, the chair, the vice-chair, the supreme justice, the director general, the advocate general, the safeguarding officer, the technology officer, or, if the information relates to an ongoing election, the election administrator.

(2) **Lifting an order—** A confidentiality order may be lifted by—

(a) the safeguarding officer;

(b) the body or officer who made it;

(c) unless it was made by the safeguarding officer, the Supreme Court;

(d) if the order was made by the vice-chair, the chair;

(e) if the order was made by the advocate general or the technology officer, the director general.

Chapter 2: Whistleblowing

(1) **Qualifying disclosures—** A 'qualifying disclosure' means any disclosure of information which, in the reasonable belief of the person making the disclosure, shows that one or more of the following has happened, is happening, or is likely to happen:

(a) a serious breach of the rules of conduct;

(b) a safeguarding failure by an authority;

(c) an infringement of any party's rights under GUM law;

(d) a failure to comply with a legal obligation under GUM law;

(e) misconduct in GUM office;

(f) any other matter which puts anyone's welfare at risk;

(g) deliberate concealment of any matter falling within the above subsections.

(2) **Protected disclosures—** A protected disclosure is a qualifying disclosure made by anyone who acts in good faith, believing the information to be true.

(3) **Exemptions—** A qualifying disclosure is not a protected disclosure if—

(a) the disclosure creates a reasonable risk of violating macronational law;
(b) unless made under section (1)(b), the disclosure creates a reasonable risk of prejudicing a lawful GUM investigation into any safeguarding issue;
(c) it is contrary to a confidentiality order made by the safeguarding officer;
(d) the disclosure breaches legal professional privilege (see chapter 3, section (2)(f));
(e) the disclosure unreasonably violates any person's right to privacy (e.g. a safeguarding disclosure that is made public, rather than privately to a GUM authority);
(f) it—
    (i) is made under section (1)(a), (c) or (d) (or section (1)(g) in relation to these subsections) and
    (ii) is contrary to a Supreme Court confidentiality order.

(4) **Right not to suffer detriment—** Someone who makes a protected disclosure must not be subjected, directly or indirectly, to detriment because of doing so (including but not limited to court-ordered penalties or disciplinary action).

(5) **Duties of confidentiality—** Any law, order, or contractual provision is void to the extent that it purports to prevent someone from making a protected disclosure.

Chapter 3: Privileged information

(1) **Privileged information—** Privilege is the strongest form of protection for any information. The types of privileged information are set out in section (2) and (3).

(2) **Prohibited disclosures—** A party must not disclose any of the following information in any circumstance (other than lawful whistleblowing), even if subject to a court or investigatory order, or a Quorum motion, and must not be subject to any penalty for failing to disclose such information:
(a) information that if disclosed would create a reasonable risk of violating macronational law;
(b) the personal data of any other person;

(c) information held by the GUM, which if disclosed would—

(i) create a reasonable risk of prejudicing a lawful GUM investigation into any safeguarding issue;

(ii) create a reasonable risk of prejudicing the GUM's security, integrity, or stability;

(d) information subject to a confidentiality order (unless the order is lifted, and notwithstanding other provisions);

(e) a communication made for the purpose of settling a civil claim and all the parties agree to keep it confidential;

(f) a communication between legal counsel and their client, made for the purpose of providing legal advice ('legal professional privilege'), unless—

(i) the communication was made in the presence of a third party or

(ii) the client expresses to their counsel, explicitly or implicitly, an intent to breach the rules of conduct in the future;

(g) confidential information obtained during the process of the party in question's work as journalist.

(3) **Optional protection—** A party may optionally refuse to disclose any of the following information in any circumstance, even if subject to a court or investigatory order, or a Quorum motion, and must not be subject to any penalty for failing to disclose such information:

(a) information which, if disclosed, would create a reasonable risk of exposing the party in question to—

(i) macronational criminal or civil legal liability, or

(ii) micronational criminal or disciplinary liability

(b) the personal data of the party in question.

(4) **Waiving a privilege—** In relation to sections (2) and (3), a privilege may be waived by—

(a) for all subsections except (notwithstanding 1 GUMC 6(4) (conflict with micronational law)) (2)(a), (2)(b), 2(c)(i), (3)(a)(i), or (3)(b), the safeguarding officer, if necessary to ensure the GUM's compliance with its safeguarding responsibilities;

(b) for subsections (3)(a), the person who would be exposed to liability;

(c) for subsections (2)(b) or (3)(b), the person to whom the information relates;

(d) for subsection (2)(c)(ii), the chair;
(e) for subsection (2)(d), the body or officer who made the confidentiality order;
(f) for subsection (2)(e), all the parties to that claim;
(g) for subsection (2)(f), the client;
(h) for subsection (2)(g), the person from which the information was obtained.

Chapter 4: Freedom of information

(1) **Entitlement—** A delegation member who asks the GUM (including any individual officer or staff member) for information is entitled to be informed whether the GUM holds that information ('the duty to confirm or deny'), and if so, to have that information communicated to them. This does not apply if a request is frivolous or vexatious.

(2) **Deadline—** The GUM must comply with all requests, or provide a detailed reason why it is not required to provide the requested information, within seven days.

(3) **Prohibition on further sharing—** Information provided under section 1 may not be made available to—
(a) the public,
(b) anyone who is not—
(i) a delegation member or
(ii) an official of the government or organisation that the delegation member represents, or
(c) an official of the government or organisation that the delegation member represents, if that the government or organisation has not taken all reasonable measures to prevent that information being shared further.

This section does not apply to the extent that the GUM has already made or later makes the information more widely available.

(4) **Exempt information—** The GUM does not have to provide information under section 1 if the information is exempt. If only part of the information requested is exempt, then the GUM must provide all other information that is not exempt.

(5) **List of exemptions—** Information is exempt if—

(a) it is privileged;

(b) it constitutes or would likely allow the deduction of any secret vote;

(c) it relates to the votes cast in an ongoing executive election;

(d) it is held by the GUM because it was provided in confidence;

(e) disclosing the information would—

(i) be otherwise unlawful under GUM law;

(ii) create a reasonable risk of prejudicing the health, safety, or welfare of any person;

(iii) create a reasonable risk of prejudicing an ongoing or upcoming—

(1) Supreme Court proceeding;

(2) investigation by the Supreme Court, director general, advocate general, or safeguarding officer;

(iv) otherwise create a reasonable risk of prejudicing the lawful exercise of the GUM's responsibilities (including but not limited to policymaking or enforcing of the rules of conduct);

(f) the information is held by the GUM with a view to its publication at some future date (whether determined or not), and

(i) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and

(ii) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the publication date;

(g) it is reasonably accessible by other means;

(h) the GUM has reasonable suspicion to believe that the delegation member requesting the information will breach the rule under section (3).

(6) **Exemption from duty to confirm or deny—** The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with the duty would involve the disclosure of exempt information.

Chapter 5: GUM venues

(1) **GUM venues—** No one may share—

(a) any information likely to associate a delegation member or delegation with anything they said in any GUM venue that is open only to delegation members or

(b) details of any other delegation's vote in any GUM proceeding (including elections)

with someone who is not a delegation member, unless with the consent of the applicable person or national government. Quorum may generally or on a one-off basis exempt official reports published by the GUM from this rule, but any delegate or delegation is still entitled to anonymity if they request.

(2) **Internal proceedings—** A delegate may share information ordinarily protected by section 1 with the government of the state or the organisation they represent. But a delegate may only do so if they are confident that their government or organisation has taken all reasonable measures to prevent that information being shared outside the government or organisation.

(3) **Staff discussions—** A discussion in a restricted staff venue is not confidential unless provided otherwise (e.g. it is still subject to the freedom of information entitlement).

Title 13: Policy and projects

Chapter 1: Policy and positions

(1) **ANZAC day—** The GUM acknowledges ANZAC Day is on 25 April and respectfully pays its respects to those who fought and made the ultimate sacrifice on the beaches of Gallipoli and other locations.

(2) **Fundamentalist and militant organisations—** The GUM wholeheartedly condemns fundamentalist and militant organisations which seek to purposefully endanger civilian lives for political gain. Such organisations are a prevailing threat to freedom in our time.

Chapter 2: Treaties and other agreements

(1) **Wrythe Convention—** Quorum ratifies the Wrythe Convention on the Prevention and Denouncing of Falsehoods.

(2) **Edgbaston Convention—** Quorum ratifies the Edgbaston Convention.

Chapter 3: Projects

(1) **Country codes—** The director general must assign three-letter country codes to members, provisional members, observers, and any other state that requests one. If there's disagreement over any country code, then Quorum may amend the codes to resolve the situation.

(2) **Development awards—** The chair and membership development secretary must organise annual Development Awards, primarily to be awarded to members. The categories, the nomination procedure, the voting/selection procedure, and the presentation of awards are all as the chair and secretary direct.

(3) **Diplomaseal—** There is to be an initiative known as ‘Diplomaseal,’ administered by the chair. The initiative consists of sending a stuffed toy between members and subdivisions of members, so that the toy can be photographed at locations in and around each member or subdivision. These photographs should be published.

Title 14: Miscellaneous

Chapter 1: Safeguarding

(1) **Safeguarding policy—** The safeguarding officer must develop and publish a comprehensive safeguarding policy for the GUM.

(2) **Order of seniority—** For the purposes of 1 GUMC 6(6), the order of seniority is as follows:

(a) safeguarding officer,
(b) director general,
(c) chair,
(d) supreme justice,
(e) vice-chair,
(f) advocate general,
(g) technology officer,
(h) any associate justice (in order of seniority),
(i) any deputy director,
(j) any secretary,
(k) any deputy secretary or assistant deputy director.

Chapter 2: Equality

(1) **Bona fide occupational qualifications—** Someone does not discriminate against another person if—

(a) they make a personnel action (including but not limited to an appointment, a dismissal, a promotion, or a demotion) on the basis of a personal characteristic (e.g. gender, race, religion, etc.) and
(b) that characteristic is a bona fide occupational qualification necessary for the fulfilment of a role's responsibilities.

Chapter 3: GUM Legal and Administrative Certification

(1) **Exam—** The director general must, in consultation with the supreme justice and the advocate general, develop exams in—

(a) GUM law and legal practice ('legal exam'), and

(b) GUM law as it applies to the powers and duties of executive and administrative officials ('administrative exam').

The exams must be free and open to everyone, including members of the public, and they must be kept up-to-date. The exams must be sufficiently comprehensive and difficult to make sure that anyone who passes the legal exam is competent to practise GUM law as a justice or attorney, and that anyone who passes the administrative exam is sufficiently knowledgeable about GUM law to serve as chair. A person may take either exam multiple times, regardless of whether or not they passed.

(2) **Certification—** A person who passes the law exam receives GUM Legal Certification; a person who passes the administration exam receives GUM Administrative Certification. These certifications do not expire. The director general must maintain a public register of everyone with certification, along with the grade they achieved the last time they took the exam.

(3) **Qualification requirement—** A requirement for someone to hold GUM Legal or Administrative Certification does apply if the relevant exam is not available.