

## First Ballot Concluded

9th May, 2018 —The Rector hereby gives notice that the first Ballot has successfully concluded, with the following results:

- The **turnout** of the Ballot was **87.5%**.
- The first item, **R000-001** a.k.a. the Ballot Act 2018, was **passed unanimously**.
- The second item, **E000-002** a.k.a. the election to the Minor Council, resulted in **the Rector** being elected by default, with **Artemis B. Langford** and **Alex White** being chosen by lot.
- The third item, **E001-001** a.k.a. the election of the Chief Justice, resulted in **Anthony R. Clark** being elected by default, awaiting confirmation by the Minor Council.
- The fourth item, **P001-002** a.k.a. the Diplomatic Code Act 2018, was **passed unanimously**.

The texts of these items are included in the following pages.

## Justice Clark Confirmed

10th May, 2018 —The Rector hereby gives notice that the first Minor Council has been elected and has convened. The Minor Council **confirmed the election of Anthony R. Clark** as Chief Justice of the Senior Justicial Council **unanimously**.

## The Rector v. Senior Justicial Council

11th May, 2018 —The Chief Justice of the Senior Justicial Council hereby gives notice that the Council has delivered its opinion on The Rector v. Senior Justicial Council.

*Held*— There is no constitutional or statutory basis on which reference questions might be prohibited. Accordingly, it is the opinion of the Council that reference questions are lawful.

The full opinion of the council is included in the following pages.

## Appointments in the Embassy

15th May, 2018 —The Chief Ambassador hereby gives notice that Justice Anthony R. Clark is named as Beaconite Consul to Scotland.

## R000-001

*Be it enacted by the Grand Forum of All Citizens, as follows—*

MINOR COUNCIL REFERRAL 000-001

BALLOT ACT 2018

An Act to make provision for the Business, Procedures, and Ballot distribution methods of the Grand Forum.

CHAPTER I

ON THE BUSINESS OF THE GRAND FORUM

### Section A: General citations and categorisation

1. The Business that the Grand Forum considers is to be divided into six categories, each denoted with a single initial letter:
  - (a) Propositions, denoted P, which take the form of a written bill of legislation, which are to be known as Acts upon their enactment;
  - (b) Elections, denoted E, which take the form of the election to an Office established by the Constitution or by law, or a question of whether to call an election for a particular Office if such a proposal is permitted;
  - (c) Treaties, denoted T, which take the form of a binding agreement with another sovereign entity;
  - (d) Charters, denoted C, which take the form of formal documents granting rights or powers to particular persons or groups;
  - (e) Motions, denoted M, which are any Business that cannot be categorised as one of the above, including non-binding items;
  - (f) Minor Council Referrals, denoted R, which are any action taken by the Minor Council that the Grand Forum must then consider at its next Ballot. Though Minor Council Referrals will additionally fit into one of the previous categories, they are categorised only as Minor Council Referrals.
2. Each item of Business is to be assigned a Citation Code for future reference.
3. The Citation Code is to be of the form “[X][MCN]-[BIN]”, where—
  - (a) X is the category letter as defined above;
  - (b) MCN is the number of the Minor Council, beginning at 001 and increasing sequentially with each newly elected Minor Council, though any Business proposed before the first Minor Council election is to have an MCN of 000;
  - (c) BIN is the number of the item of Business, beginning from 001 for each newly elected Minor Council and increasing sequentially.
4. The MCN and BIN are to be written with at least three digits.

### Section B: Citations and formatting of Propositions

1. A Proposition must have a Short Title and a Long Title. The Short Title must take the form “[Name] Act [Year of Enactment] ([Additional Descriptors])”, where the Name and Additional Descriptors are chosen by the Electors proposing it, and the Additional Descriptors are optional. The Long Title must begin with “An Act to...” and then describe the purpose of the Proposition. All provisions of the Proposition must be described by the Long Title.
2. Each Proposition must have its articles formatted in the following hierarchy:
  - (a) Chapters, numbered sequentially with Roman numerals;
  - (b) Sections, denoted sequentially by uppercase letters of the Roman alphabet;
  - (c) Articles, numbered sequentially by Arabic numerals;
  - (d) List items, denoted sequentially by lowercase letters of the Roman alphabet.

Chapters and Sections represent divisions of the Proposition and may have titles. Articles contain actual legal provisions, and any lists required in an Article will be written in List item form. If a Proposition is short enough to not require Chapters or Sections, they may be omitted.

- Each Proposition must begin with an Enactment Clause of the following form:

“Be it enacted by the Grand Forum of All Citizens, as follows—”

If the Proposition amends the Constitution, the Enactment Clause is of the following form:

“Be it enacted by a Consensus of the Grand Forum of All Citizens and also the Minor Council and the Rector, as follows—”

#### Section C: Citations of Elections

- An Election is to be named on the Ballot in the form “[Ordinal] Election to the Office(s) of [Office(s)]”, where Ordinal is replaced with the ordinal number of the election to that Office, and Office is replaced with the title of the Office, with pluralisation as needed.
- If the item is a question of whether to call an election for a particular Office, the item is to be named on the Ballot in the form “[Ordinal] Recall Motion for the Office(s) of [Office(s)]”.

#### Section D: Citations of other items of Business

- A Treaty must have a formal title for the sake of citation.
- A Charter must have a title of the form “Charter of Incorporation for . . .”.
- A Motion must take the form “This Forum moves that . . .” followed by the text to be approved or rejected by the Grand Forum.
- A Minor Council Referral must take the same formatting of the other Category the item fits into.

### CHAPTER II ON THE PROCEDURE OF ELECTION

#### Section A: Nomination for Election

- Nomination for an Office requires the support of the Nominee and at least two other Electors as prescribed by Article III.6 of the Constitution.

#### Section B: Elections to the Minor Council

- The election of the members of the Minor Council must occur every six Calendar Months as prescribed by Article IV.3 of the Constitution.
- All three members are to be elected together by the Single Transferable Vote, in accordance with Article III.5 of the Constitution.
- Given that the Constitution requires that the Minor Council have members, should there be less than three nominees, the required number of nominees will be chosen from the pool of those Electors who are not Justices by lot.

#### Section C: Elections for Magistrates

- The election of Magistrates must occur every 12 months as prescribed by Article V.3 of the Constitution.
- The election of Magistrates and other elected Offices within Magistracies is to be done by the Instant Runoff Vote, in accordance with Article III.5 of the Constitution.

#### Section D: Elections to the Senior Judicial Council

- The election of Justices in the Senior Judicial Council must occur every twelve Calendar Months as prescribed by Article VI.3 of the Constitution.
- Justices are to be elected by the Single Transferable Vote, in accordance with Article III.5 of the Constitution.
- Given that the Constitution requires that the Senior Judicial Council have Justices, should there less nominees than seats on the Senior Judicial Council, the required number of nominees will be chosen from the pool of those Electors who are not Magistrates or members of the Minor Council by lot.

#### Section E: Elections to the Rectorate

- The election of a Rector is to be done by the Instant Runoff Vote, in accordance with Article III.5 of the Constitution.
- Given that the Constitution requires that there be a Rector, should there be no nominee, a nominee will be chosen from the pool of Electors by lot.

#### Section F: Elections for Offices to be established

- When an election is held for a single Office, it is to be done by the Instant Runoff Vote, in accordance with Article III.5 of the Constitution.
- When an election is held for a set of equivalent offices, such as a Council, it is to be done by the Single Transferable Vote, in accordance with Article III.5 of the Constitution.

Section G: Implementation of the Instant Runoff and Single Transferable Vote

- When voting in an election held by the Instant Runoff or Single Transferable Votes, the Elector must assign a rank to every nominee.

### CHAPTER III ON THE BALLOTS THEMSELVES

#### Section A: Initial provisions

- The Rector is to request the following details from Electors for the purposes of identification:
  - Full name;
  - Age;
  - Residency status;
  - Any contact details necessary for the delivery of Ballots.
- To all Electors the Rector must assign a unique Electoral Identification Number (‘EIN’), created by such algorithm as they may choose but made to minimise the likelihood of any person fraudulently calculating another Elector’s EIN.
- When an Elector returns a Ballot to the Rector, they must include their EIN so that the Rector may confirm that the vote is from an Elector. If the Rector receives a Ballot with an invalid EIN, or indeed no EIN at all, then the Ballot must be discounted.
- If the Rector receives two or more Ballots with the same EIN, then both Ballots must be discounted.
- In accordance with Article III.13 of the Constitution, the Rector may never associate an Elector’s Ballot with their details of identification.

#### Section B: Delivery and return of Ballots

- The Rector may deliver and receive Ballots by the following methods:
  - Postal delivery
  - Balloting stations
  - Online Balloting
- Should the Rector choose to use postal delivery for any Ballots, they must ensure that all Ballots are delivered to those Electors that receive their Ballots by this method by the first day of voting, and that any Ballots posted for return on the final day of voting are returned to the Rector with adequate time for the counting of the votes and the announcement of the results. Additionally, the Rector must ensure that the Elector pays for neither the delivery nor the return of the Ballot.
- Should the Rector choose to use Balloting stations for any Ballots, they must ensure that, of those Electors that receive their Ballots by this method, all have an accessible Balloting station within walking distance.
- Should the Rector choose to use online Balloting for any Ballots, they must ensure that the web address for the online Balloting portal is posted on a platform where all Electors will be able to access it, or that the web address is sent via e-mail or social media to the Elector. This method may not be used for Electors lacking either an e-mail address or consistent internet access.

## P001-002

*Be it enacted by the Grand Forum of All Citizens, as follows—*

PROPOSITION 001-002

DIPLOMATIC CODE ACT 2018

An Act to establish a Magistracy for Foreign Affairs, its relevant junior Offices, and to lay a groundwork for the execution of the foreign policy of Our Serene Republic.

### CHAPTER I ON THE MAGISTRACY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

#### Section A: Establishment of the Magistracy

- There is to be a Magistracy for Foreign Affairs (‘the Magistracy’).
- The Magistracy is to be led by a Foreign Magistrate, elected by the Grand Forum.
- The Magistracy is mandated to manage the following areas of policy:
  - Liaising with foreign governments;
  - Negotiating treaties with foreign governments;
  - Managing diplomatic missions;

- (d) Ensuring that both Our Serene Republic and foreign governments carry out their treaty obligations;
- (e) Ensuring the safety and security of Beaconite Citizens travelling abroad.

#### Section B: Establishment of the Embassy

1. Within the Magistracy there is to be an Undermagistracy known as the Embassy.
2. The Embassy is mandated to manage the same areas of policy as the Magistracy, but with distinct representation of the Magistracy to foreign governments.
3. The Embassy is to be led by a Chief Ambassador, elected by the Grand Forum.
4. The Chief Ambassador is to serve additionally as the Deputy to the Foreign Magistrate, and will carry out the responsibilities of the Foreign Magistrate if they are busy, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to carry out those duties themselves, or if the Office of Foreign Magistrate is vacant.

### CHAPTER II

#### ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MAGISTRACY

##### Section A: Foreign liaison

1. The Foreign Magistrate is to direct the policy of Our Serene Republic in regards to diplomacy with other nations.
2. The Grand Forum may, by Motion, order the Foreign Magistrate to seek to open negotiations with other foreign states or organisations, require certain terms to be placed in the treaty, require certain terms to be removed from any existing drafts of the treaty, or order the Foreign Magistrate to close negotiations.
3. Any other decisions in regard to liaison or negotiations is left to the discretion of the Foreign Magistrate.

##### Section B: Treaty obligation

1. The Foreign Magistrate is to ensure that any foreign states with treaties with Our Serene Republic properly fulfil any obligations those treaties may require.
2. If the Foreign Magistrate finds that those states are not fulfilling their obligations, they may—
  - (a) Recommend an end to the treaty to the Grand Forum;
  - (b) Recommend expulsion of part or all of those states' diplomatic missions (see Chapter III);
  - (c) Recommend sanctions or another retaliatory response to the Grand Forum or to the relevant authority;
  - (d) If permitted by those states' legal systems, file suit against that government;
  - (e) Refuse to fulfil the equivalent obligations of Our Serene Republic, should such an equivalent exist.
3. The Foreign Magistrate is also to ensure that Our Serene Republic fulfils its treaty obligations.
4. If the Foreign Magistrate finds that Our Serene Republic is not fulfilling its treaty obligations, they may—
  - (a) Send a reminder, public or private, to the relevant authority that the obligations must be fulfilled;
  - (b) Inform those other states that the obligations are unfulfilled;
  - (c) Claim for the enforcement of the obligations in a Justicial Council;
  - (d) If they find that Our Serene Republic is unable to carry out those obligations, recommend an end to the treaty to the Grand Forum.

##### Section C: Security of Beaconite Citizens abroad

1. The Foreign Magistrate is to ensure that Beaconite Citizens in foreign states are protected during their time in those states.
2. If those Citizens are unable to return to Our Serene Republic, then the Magistracy (and particularly the Embassy) are to provide aid to assist their return or to ensure their safety until return is feasible.
3. If those Citizens find themselves the victims of a crime, accident, disaster or similar, the Foreign Magistrate is to liaise with the relevant authorities of those foreign states to ensure that the Citizens receive the appropriate protections and compensations.
4. If those Citizens are arrested, charged, or similar, the Foreign Magistrate is to liaise with the relevant authorities of those foreign states to ensure that the Citizens, as far as possible, are granted the proper rights that they would receive in Our Serene Republic. The Foreign Magistrate may also request that the Citizens are sentenced with deportation rather than any sentence to be served in those foreign states. If the Foreign

Magistrate suspects that those foreign states would hold an unfair trial or give disproportionate sentencing, they are to attempt to pressure those states to hold fair proceedings or to release the Citizens immediately.

### CHAPTER III

#### ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE EMBASSY

##### Section A: The Chief Ambassador

1. The Chief Ambassador will be responsible for the appointment of the Ambassadors at-Large and the Ambassadors.
2. The Chief Ambassador will also be responsible for the appointment of delegates to any international organisations that Our Serene Republic may join.
3. The Chief Ambassador may declare any foreign diplomats to be *persona non grata*.
4. All Ambassadors and Ambassadors at-Large may appoint Deputies, who will carry out the responsibilities of that Office if they are busy, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to carry out those duties themselves, or if the Office is vacant.

##### Section B: The Ambassadors

1. An Ambassador may be appointed to any foreign state recognised by Our Serene Republic. If that state also recognises Our Serene Republic, then its government may require that any Ambassadors appointed to it be accredited by its government.
2. The principal roles of an Ambassador are to represent the Magistracy and Our Serene Republic to the state to which they are appointed, and to represent the same to any Beaconite Citizens travelling to that state.
3. Ambassadors are to hold title of the form "Beaconite Ambassador of [X]", where X represents their appointed state.
4. Ambassadors may appoint Diplomats to assist with the carrying out of their duties. These may also require accreditation under the same conditions as the Ambassadors.
5. An Ambassador may seek to establish a permanent Embassy building in their appointed state. Any Embassy to be established must be granted a sufficient degree of extraterritoriality such that the Ambassador may carry out their duties with sufficient independence from their appointed state under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.
6. The Foreign Magistrate will hold the Office of Beaconite Ambassador to the United Kingdom, *ex officio*.

##### Section C: The Ambassadors at-Large

1. An Ambassador at-Large may be appointed to any region or grouping of foreign states recognised by Our Serene Republic. If any of those states recognise Our Serene Republic, then their government may require that any Ambassadors at-Large appointed to them be accredited by their government.
2. The roles, responsibilities and rights of Ambassador at-Large is the same as those of an Ambassador, including representation, appointment of Diplomats, and establishment of Embassies.
3. Ambassadors at-Large are to hold title of the form "Beaconite Ambassador at-Large of [X]", where X represents either a list of their appointed states or a name that is representative of the grouping of states.

##### Section D: The Consuls

1. An Ambassador or Ambassador at-Large (henceforth known generically as 'Ambassador', unless specifically stated otherwise) may appoint Consuls to specific regions of their appointed state or states to represent the Ambassadors. Consuls may require accreditation under the same conditions as Ambassadors.
2. Consuls are to hold title of the form "Beaconite Consul of [X]", where X represents their appointed state.
3. A Consul may seek to establish a permanent Consulate building in their appointed region. Any Consulate to be established must be granted a sufficient degree of extraterritoriality such that the Consul may carry out their duties with sufficient independence from their appointed state under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.
4. Consuls may also appoint Diplomats.

### CHAPTER IV

#### ON THE RECOGNITION AND DIPLOMACY OF FOREIGN STATES

##### Section A: The Hierarchy of Foreign Recognition

1. Our Serene Republic will recognise foreign states according to the following hierarchy:
  - (a) Those states that Our Serene Republic has signed treaties with, such that mutual recognition is mandated;

- (b) Those states that, by a Motion of the Grand Forum, Our Serene Republic chooses to unilaterally recognise;
  - (c) The member states of the United Nations, and additionally the Vatican City State.
2. Where two states have disputed borders, the state higher on this hierarchy is to have its borders recognised by Our Serene Republic. Should the two states have the same ranking on this hierarchy, then the decision of which borders to recognise is to be made by the Foreign Magistrate.
  3. An exception is to be made for the City of Beacon, New York, which will be considered an illegitimate administration.

#### Section B: Diplomatic Missions to Our Serene Republic

1. Should a foreign state recognised by Our Serene Republic wish to appoint Ambassadors, Diplomats, Consuls, or other diplomatic staff as their laws so require, they will require accreditation from the Chief Ambassador.
2. The Chief Ambassador may refuse or revoke accreditation on the following grounds:
  - (a) Suspicion of the illicit gathering of Beaconite information;
  - (b) Suspicion of conspiracy against Our Serene Republic;
  - (c) Failure to properly represent their government;
  - (d) Response to the undue revocation of accreditation of Beaconite diplomatic staff;
  - (e) Response to failure to meet treaty obligation under Article II.B.2.b of this Act;
  - (f) Scandal, crime, or other serious breach of Beaconite public order beyond the expected behaviour of statesmen.
3. If a foreign state wishes to establish an Embassy, Consulate, or other similar permanent diplomatic missions, they will require permission from the Grand Forum, which will include the granting of extraterritorial rights under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Only the minimum rights of extraterritoriality required will be granted, and Our Serene Republic will remain sovereign over that land.
4. Foreign states will be responsible for any costs incurred for the building and maintenance of any diplomatic missions, including the land used itself.

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## The Rector v. Senior Justicial Council

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**Chief Justice Clark** Case number: 2018-1

Neutral citation: [2018] SJC 1

Decided: 11th May, 2018

#### QUESTIONS PRESENTED

The questions presented are—

- whether reference questions are lawful under Beaconite law, and if so,
  1. whether a party requires locus standi to obtain such a judgement;
  2. whether in such actions other parties may make submissions to the Council prior to its judgement;
  3. whether a Council may refuse to entertain such an action;
  4. whether such a judgement forms binding precedent;
  5. whether the powers of judicial review may be exercised with respect to such a judgement.

#### TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Cases:

- *Muskrat v. United States*, 219 U.S. 346 (1911)

Statutes:

- Supreme Court Act 1875 (Canada)

Constitutional Provisions:

- Article VI(1)
- Article VI(5)
- Article VI(8)
- US Constitution, Article III

International Instruments:

- Statute of the International Court of Justice, Chapter IV

#### INTRODUCTION

CHIEF JUSTICE CLARK delivered the opinion of the Council

1. The action before the Senior Justicial Council in *The Rector v Senior Justicial Council* concerns the Council's jurisdiction to hear 'reference re' actions—that is, actions that do not arise from concrete controversies.
2. This action is unprecedented, as it itself comes before the Council in the form of a reference action. The Council is entertaining this first reference action for the purposes of deciding on the lawfulness of future actions.
3. This opinion is primarily concerned with the lawfulness of reference actions, but should these actions be found lawful, the petitioner has also requested an opinion on five secondary questions concerning the nature of these actions.

#### JURISDICTION

4. Article VI(5) of the Constitution specifies that 'the Senior Justicial Council is to sit as an appellate court of last resort.' Accordingly, for the purposes of this action, it must be determined whether the Council also has original jurisdiction.
5. Article VI(1) provides that 'the Justicial Authority of Our Serene Republic is vested in a Senior Justicial Council [...] and any other junior Justicial Councils as the Grand Forum may establish.' At present, there are no statutory Justicial Councils. An action can only be laid before this Council, and accordingly, there is no potential for appellate jurisdiction.
6. It would not be satisfactory if Beaconite law had no capacity to hear actions in the first instance. Furthermore, nothing in the Constitution expressly prohibits this Council from exercising original jurisdiction.
7. Therefore, it is the opinion of the Council that until such time as statutory Justicial Councils of original jurisdiction may be established, it is lawful for this Council to hear actions in the first instance. However, as this Council sits as a court of last resort, there is no capacity for opinions of this Council to be appealed.

#### LAWFULNESS OF REFERENCE JURISDICTION

A: Introduction

8. A reference question is a question of law presented to a court that does not arise from a concrete and particularised cause of action. Such actions are sometimes known as advisory opinions. These actions are permitted in some jurisdictions, such as Canada or India, and prohibited in others, such as Australia or the United States of America. Under Chapter IV of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, the ICJ also has the authority to issue advisory opinions.
9. Reference questions (known formally as abstract reviews) are permitted under Canadian law. Under the Supreme Court Act of 1875, the federal Cabinet may, by order-in-council, submit a question to the Supreme Court of Canada. Interveners and amici curiae are permitted, and both the federal Attorney-General and provincial Attorney-Generals are entitled to appear before the court to make submissions. Abstract reviews are not legally binding, but no government has ever ignored the opinion given.
10. In *Muskrat v. United States*, 219 U.S. 346 (1911), the US Supreme Court held that Article III of the Constitution limits the jurisdiction of the Court to actual controversies between adverse parties. Accordingly, US federal courts are prohibited from issuing advisory opinions.

B: The Beaconite Constitution

11. Article VI(1) specifies only that justicial authority is vested in the Justicial Councils. There is no provision equivalent to the cases and controversies clause of Article III of the US Constitution. Accordingly, there is no constitutional basis on which reference questions could be prohibited.
12. It is clear that reference questions have the potential to be a useful legal tool and will allow Beaconite law to develop faster than it might if reference questions were prohibited. Regardless, it is not clear that there is any basis on which to prohibit reference questions.
13. Therefore, it is the opinion of the Council that reference questions are lawful under Beaconite law.

## SECONDARY QUESTIONS

## A: Locus Standi

14. There is no constitutional or statutory basis on which the availability of reference proceedings could be restricted and maximising the availability of the proceedings would increase the reach of the benefits mentioned in paragraph 12.
15. Accordingly, it is the opinion of the Council that reference proceedings may be brought by any legal person, including any Beaconite public authority.

## B: Respondents

16. The correct respondent in any reference proceeding is the Justicial Council before which the reference petition is laid.
17. As with any proceeding before the Justicial Councils, interveners and amici curiae should be permitted in reference proceedings (although the Council reserves the right to deny applications to intervene and to refuse amici curiae briefs). In order to ensure representation of the government, the Rector or an appointed representative should be entitled to intervene.

## C: Refusal of Reference Questions

18. A Justicial Council should have the discretionary power to dismiss a reference proceeding that does not raise a question of law of general public importance.
19. A Justicial Council should also be able to dismiss reference questions raising matters on which the law is already clear, as well as reference questions which are excessively vague in purpose.

## D: Precedent

20. Article VI(8) of the Constitution provides that 'other than the Senior Justicial Council, the Justicial Councils are to be bound by the precedents set by previous analogous decisions of the Justicial Councils.'
21. It is therefore clear that opinions entered pursuant to reference proceedings should be held as binding precedent for the purposes of future Council rulings.

22. However, as reference questions do not arise from concrete controversies, no order may be imposed on any party.

## E: Judicial Review

23. In accordance with paragraph 22 of this opinion, no order may be imposed on any party. Henceforth, a Justicial Council is precluded from exercising its powers of judicial review pursuant to a reference proceeding.

## CONCLUSION

24. It is therefore the opinion of the Council that—
  - (a) until such time as statutory Justicial Councils of original jurisdiction may be established, it is lawful for this Council to hear actions in the first instance;
  - (b) reference questions are lawful under Beaconite law;
  - (c) reference proceedings may be brought by any legal person, including any Beaconite public authority;
  - (d) the correct respondent in any reference proceeding is the Justicial Council before which the reference petition is laid;
  - (e) the Rector or an appointed representative should be entitled to intervene in any reference proceeding;
  - (f) a Justicial Council has the discretionary power to dismiss a reference proceeding that does not raise a question of law of general public importance, that raises matters on which the law is already clear or that are excessively vague in purpose;
  - (g) opinions entered pursuant to reference proceedings should be held as binding precedent for the purposes of future Council rulings;
  - (h) no order may be imposed on any party pursuant to reference proceedings;
  - (i) a Justicial Council is precluded from exercising its powers of judicial review pursuant to a reference proceeding.

*Opinion entered 11th May, 2018.*