

Union Stance on the European Union

A Paper by Ben Fernando, RAG Chair

Seconded by Hannah Whitham, Emma Wills (FoNS Undergraduates)

Union Notes:

- That a substantial proportion of the Union's members are from EU member states
- A referendum on the UK's membership of the EU will likely be held within the next two years, with a significant possibility of one being held within the next year¹
- That in the event of the country leaving the EU, there may be significant changes to Science policy, including in funding and in the accessibility and affordability of education to the Union's members from the EU

Union Believes:

- The Union has a duty to protect the interests of EU students in relation to their ability to attend university in the UK in an affordable manner
- That there is significant concern amongst students, especially those who will still be here in 2017, about the consequences of the UK leaving the EU
- That there may well be a significant amount of campaigning and discussion over these issues over the summer, justifying the need to take a proactive stance as soon as possible
- That of all the pro-EU groups, 'Scientists for the EU' is the one that best represents the interests of the Union's members².

Union Resolves:

- To affiliate to the 'Scientists for the European Union' movement, a non-partisan group that seeks to publicise the importance of the EU to the UK's science
- To mandate the Union President and his successors to engage with the College, encourage them to also affiliate and make clear students' concerns
- To encourage the Aldwych Group to take a stance on this issue, including affiliation with the Scientists for the EU group
- To mandate next year's sabbatical officers to engage with local politicians in a constructive, non-demanding manner to discuss issues relevant to this topic
- To reaffirm Union members' support for the pro-EU campaign through a referendum on the subject to be held at the same time as the Rep and Council elections in October

¹ http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0002/cbill_2015-20160002_en_2.htm#pb1-l1g5

² <http://scientistsforeu.uk/>