

Relations between the RCSU and the Faculty of Natural Sciences

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The Union Notes:

1. As of 1st January 2015, Professor Tom Welton (previous Head of Chemistry) will replace Professor Maggie Dallman as the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences (FoNS).
2. The FoNS has kindly supported the RCSU in the past few years, by providing funding to go towards activities, notably the Science Challenge.
3. Representatives of the RCSU (usually the President and/or the Academic Affairs Officer) sit on the FoNS Teaching Committee meetings to provide student input.

The Union Believes:

1. The change in Deanship of the FoNS is a suitable opportunity to outline how the RCSU would like the relationship to grow in the near future, in a way that enables both parties to benefit.
2. There is significant overlap in the representation of students provided by both the RCSU and FoNS. This has led to an inefficient academic representation system (via Year Reps and Dep Reps), which prompted the Faculty to hold departmental "Town Hall" meetings. These had a very low attendance, possibly because it acted as an unnecessary alternative to the familiar Year Rep system.
3. The FoNS Make A Difference entrepreneurial competition is a relatively unknown scheme which could attract many participants in the Faculty if they are more aware of it.

The Union Resolves:

1. For a vote of thanks to be given to Professor Dallman in return for all her work and cooperation since she was appointed as Dean of FoNS.
2. To work with the FoNS to combine resources and help develop Make A Difference into a bigger and more widely publicised competition.
3. To clarify the extent of which the RCSU and FoNS each get involved in academic representation
4. To meet with Tom Welton next term to identify any areas of improvement from the perspective of the FoNS
5. To work with FoNS and ICU where appropriate to implement the above resolutions.