

## **Demilitarised Campus Policy**

**Proposers:** Lughaidh Scully, Communities Committee

**Seconders:** Lina Nass, AUSA International Students Officer; Nicoline Kure, AUSA Women's Officer; Laura Smith, Welfare Committee; Nathan Bircham, Welfare Committee; Isabel Arce Zelada, Communities Committee; Hailey Madison Slate, AUSA Black and Minority Ethnic Students Officer; Lewis MacLeod, AUSA Communities Officer; Sean Mainwaring, Communities Committee; Mie Jensen, School of Social Science Rep; Noémie Pirus, Welfare Committee

### **Council notes:**

1. That while military organizations including (but not limited to) the Aberdeen University Officer Training Corps (AUOTC), East of Scotland Universities Air Squadron (ESUAS), University Royal Navy Units, and Territorial Army are external organizations and not an AUSA club or society they have in the past been given access to AUSA Freshers' Fayre and ReFreshers Fayre events. These stalls have at times been given at no cost and have featured multimedia displays and representatives in military uniform, giving military organizations that contribute to recruitment greater exposure than allotted to other societies or external organisations.
2. That as the University Officer Training Corps is a branch of the Army, members may be called up for active duty even while in university should the Army claim to be in a 'national emergency.' According to the British Army, UOTC cadets are Type B Army Reservists and as such constitute a reserve military force which, along with other reserve forces, enable the government to engage in a more aggressive foreign policy, deploying its active forces members abroad rather than needing to employ active forces in national defence. The UOTC puts students under the command of full time military officers.
3. That the reason for existence and chief function of the UOTC, ESUAS, and similar organisations is military recruitment.
4. That this Association has already passed previous motions condemning AUSA's financial involvement in the military industry.

5. That UOTC entry requirements remain out of order with AUSA's Equality and Diversity Policy because it does not accept students from certain nationalities, with certain disabilities, or who are over the age of 32. Similar discriminatory entry requirements exist for ESUAS and other military organisations.
6. That the United Kingdom is the only country within both the European Union and NATO that allows 16-year-olds to be recruited by the armed forces, and is one of only 19 countries worldwide that does so. This policy has been challenged by the UN, the UK Parliament Joint Committee on Human Rights, health professionals, Amnesty International, and the National Union of Teachers among others. Aberdeen University accepts students from the age of 16.
7. That at the last AUSA AGM a vote fell on removing previous non-militarised campus policy and that while the policy in question was ultimately lapsed by the Executive Committee as elements of it were out of date, there is a clear democratic mandate to pass this (or a similar) motion.

**Council believes:**

1. That providing military organisations including (but not limited to) the UOTC with stalls at Freshers' Fayre, or any other event, or alongside official AUSA societies, amounts to an implied endorsement of the Corps and the Army and their activities. It further provides military organisations including (but not limited to) the Officer Training Corps direct access to all AUSA students interested in AUSA activities at the Freshers' Fayre, directly aiding military recruitment.
2. That it is inconsistent for AUSA to lobby the University to end its involvement with companies that provide weapons for the military, as is AUSA policy, while AUSA is actively involved in promoting organizations that provide officers for the military.
3. That the presence of military organisations on campus can make many members of the student body uncomfortable or even feel unsafe, particularly international students and especially those international students who are from regions of the world where the British military have been active or are currently deployed.
4. That the UOTC/ESUAS and other such organisations are directly affiliated to the British military, and should thus not be considered to be equivalent to other student societies, nor promoted to students as a leadership programme, personal development

course or anything else other than reserve forces and training programmes of the British military.

5. That AUSA should not endorse or promote any military organisations including but not limited to the University Officer Training Corps, the East of Scotland Universities Air Squadron, the University Royal Navy Units, the Territorial Army, or the regular armed forces.

**Council resolves:**

1. Not to grant military organisations including (but not limited to) the UOTC, ESUAS, URNU, TA, or regular armed forces a place at any AUSA organized events including the (Re)Freshers' Fayre or space in any AUSA premises or media.
2. To prohibit any military recruitment activity at AUSA events and premises.
3. To prohibit AUSA from accepting funds from any military organisations including (but not limited to) the UOTC, ESUAS, URNU, TA, or regular armed forces.
4. For AUSA to lobby the University to ban the University Officer Training Corps and other military recruiters from its events and premises and to remove all links to any military organisations including (but not limited to) the UOTC from both AUSA's and the University's websites.
5. To not interpret this motion as obstructing the attendance of student members of the military at AUSA events in a personal capacity.

