RCDS Bayreuth policy statement: We are…

1. <u>Conservative:</u> Preserving what has stood the test of time. Shaping what lies ahead.

We are conservative. For us, this does not mean standing still, but rather taking responsibility for what generations before us have created and having the courage to venture into the new. Or, in the words of Franz Josef Strauß: To be conservative means "to march at the forefront of progress." In doing so, we are guided by the Christian view of humanity, with the inalienable dignity and freedom of every individual.

2. <u>Libertarian:</u> Freedom requires no restrictions on thought.

A university thrives on open scholarly debate. Academic freedom and freedom of expression are our highest priorities. Political restrictions on thought, exclusion, and the suppression of legitimate debates have no place at a university. At the same time, we resolutely oppose antisemitism—Jewish life must be a matter of course and safe at our university as well.

3. <u>Performance-oriented:</u> Enabling achievement. Creating opportunities.

We stand for a performance-oriented university that challenges and supports its students. High-quality teaching, fair examination conditions, and excellent research create opportunities for every individual while ensuring our state's capacity for innovation and competitiveness.

4. <u>Roots in our homeland:</u> Our homeland and traditions also have a place on campus.

We stand by our Bavarian homeland and by Germany. For us, healthy patriotism, openness to the world and a sense of European solidarity are not mutually exclusive. That is why we want to highlight traditions at our university – for example, through *Bavarian Week in the canteen* – and ensure that important days such as *German Unity Day* are given the celebratory treatment they deserve on campus too.

5. Future-oriented: Bringing academia and business together.

Academic research must not be confined to an ivory tower. We want our university to have strong links *with businesses, small and medium-sized enterprises, start-ups and industry*. Partnerships, work placements, start-up support and the transfer of scientific knowledge into practice open up opportunities for students and strengthen Bayreuth as a centre for business and academia.

6. Resilience: Thinking about security. Taking responsibility.

For us, a university's responsibility does not end at the campus. Particularly in light of the current geopolitical situation, we believe that universities have a responsibility to contribute to the security of our country and to the resilience of our democracy. We therefore wish to give substance to the requirement for *cooperation with the Bundeswehr* set out in Article 6(8) of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (BayHIG), strengthen collaboration between the university and the Bundeswehr, and raise the profile of opportunities for students to get involved. At the same time, we wish to effectively protect research in security-related and *dual-use fields* from espionage and the outflow of knowledge.