

Affiliation with Citizens UK

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1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Citizens UK (CUK) is a charity with the aim to bring communities together to campaign on issues for the common good.
- 1.2 Citizens UK's objectives (as per their website):
 - 1.2.1. *"To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged communities of Britain and Ireland in such a way that such members are better able to identify and meet their needs and participate more fully in society;"*
 - 1.2.2. *"To assist by directly promoting the more effective working of local and national capacity building institutions designed to pursue that aim."*
- 1.3 The Deputy President Welfare (DPW) introduced Citizens UK to the Union, due to the Imperial College Medical School being an affiliated member.
- 1.4 We have since been in regular contact with West London Citizens, attending workshops and meetings for their London Wide Housing Campaign for the London Mayoral election debate.
- 1.5 CUK is not a campaigning organisation, but rather a community organising organisation, by working with institutions to train them on how to win campaigns.
- 1.6 The membership cost for our institution would be £5,000 per annum.

2.0 Process

- 2.1 The DPW and I took a paper to Union Council on 9 Feb 2016, to discuss the idea of membership with the community charity, Citizens UK; and the benefits and costs to Imperial College Union and its members, of being affiliated with this organisation (Appendix 1) .
 - 2.1.1 The discussion was generally positive, with Council members discussing the benefits of affiliation.
 - 2.1.2 The Council members wanted chance for further discussions and to have a Question & Answer session with a representative from the organisation.
- 2.2 A second paper was taken to Union Council on 26 April 2016 to vote on affiliation with Citizens UK (Appendix 2). We also had a presentation given by Amanda Walters of Citizens UK – West London Branch.
- 2.3 The following points were noted by the Council members
 - 2.3.1 Citizens UK offer broad base campaigning tools to their affiliates through developing and training officers to deliver campaigning at intuitional, borough, city and national levels.
 - 2.3.2 Organisations have joined because they have recognised that strength in numbers help to create change and the leadership development that comes with empowering officers through training.

2.3.3 The benefits that the Union will see are that of training and development of the officers, access to networks through the alliance and the ability to make changes that students want to.

2.3.4 The alliance is nonpartisan.

2.3.5 Institutions are able to opt in to campaigns – it is not expected that they must be involved in all campaigns that are run through the alliance.

2.3.6 It was queried as to why the offer that Citizens UK are giving cannot be delivered with the current staffing resources as there has been investment in growing this area in the past few years and this area is producing exceptional results.

2.3.7 In regards to the funding of the affiliation, it was reminded that Council does not have to concern itself as to where this money would come from.

3.0 Resolves

3.1 Union Council voted to be affiliated with Citizens UK (For 17, Against 6, Abstain 2)

3.2 For the Board of Trustees to ratify this affiliation due to the reputational risk attached to the affiliation.

3.3. For the Board of Trustees to agree to the Membership Letter of Understanding (Appendix 3), or make amends as they see fit.