



Notes of the meeting of an inquorate
Council
Tuesday 26 April 2016
18.30, Union Dining Hall

Present:

Council Chair	Richard Cameron
Union President	Lucinda Sandon Alum
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Ben Howitt
Deputy President (Education)	Chun Yin San
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Chris Kaye
Deputy President (Welfare)	Jennie Watson
CGCU President	Andrew Olson Gallardo
ICSMSU President	Med Harris
RCSU President	James Badman
ACC Chair	Toni Semmence
LGBT Liberation Officer	Emma Little
Campaigns Officer	Andrew Tranter
Engineering Ordinary Member UG	Owen Heaney
Science Ordinary Member UG	Michael Edwards
Engineering Ordinary Member PG	Richard Simons
Science Ordinary Member PG	Alex Savell
Science Ordinary Member UG	Nas Andriopoulos
Permanent observers	
Governance Manager (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

1. CITIZENS UK

RECEIVED: A presentation was given by Amanda Walters of Citizens UK – West London Branch and a paper was presented by the Union President

NOTED:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) The alliance is nonpartisan.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.
- g) 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.

- h) Board of Trustees would ratify this affiliation due to the reputational risk attached to the affiliation.
- i) The majority of those present would recommend to Council to affiliate to Citizens UK.

RECOMMEND:

- 1) To affiliate with Citizens UK.**

2. UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

NOTED:

- a) The Board of Trustees took part in a 2 day residential meeting which discussed risk, strategy and the next steps in moving the strategy forward. This was attended by current board members and incoming Officer Trustees, student trustees and council chair.
- b) Expiring policies are currently being considered by the Officer Trustees and should any member wish to be involved in revising these, they should get in touch with the officer responsible for this. The list and officer responsible is available [online](#)

3. ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

- a) Funds raised from the sale of Harlington – the President stated that she has met with the College's CFO and he has promised that he will send a report and a breakdown of the fund and will be seeking student input as to who to spend this. College have assured that the money will be invested in student development.

ACTION:

- 1. The President to bring an update once the report has been received.**

- b) Evelyn Garden Rents – The President and Deputy President (Welfare) lobbied and negotiated the rents to the level that they currently are which is the lowest that College were prepared to go. College have stated that the rents cover the cost of refurbishing the halls to being that of a habitable standard but they are not making profit. Depreciation is being calculated over 10 years. Should members wish to visit the halls, they can get in touch with the President who will arrange this. This is classified as private residence and is not part of the first year halls guarantee.

ACTION:

- 2. The President will seek the rent levels that are anticipated to be set for the coming years for the rooms.**

3. SPORTS STRATEGY UPDATE

RECEIVED: The strategy was presented by the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

NOTED:

- a) The strategy will have a 3 year span.
- b) Members present were asked to see what gaps they see in sports provision currently and the following were raised:
 - a. Recognise the immense value in participation over elite sport.
 - b. Giving students the opportunity to 'dabble' when they want and can take part
 - c. Sport as a pathway to healthy living and improving mental health.
 - d. Sport Imperial changing their attitude to students and providing better customer service.
 - e. Helping to foster a community.
 - f. Provision for PG and outlying campus.

- c) The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) will be bringing a draft strategy to the next meeting of Council.

At this point the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) controlled the conversation pertaining to the reforming of Council.

4. REFORMING OF UNION COUNCIL

RECEIVED: A paper was presented by the Council Chair

NOTED:

- a) Reasons as to why members do not attend meetings include:
- i. academic commitments
 - ii. part time work
 - iii. the agenda not being relevant to them
 - iv. Already having an excessive representative commitments from College and cannot prioritise Union Council as there is no direct benefit to them attending.
 - v. Ex officio members may see it as a 'side effect' or their role and not why they stood for the role.
- b) In regards to the proposed standing orders, the following was discussed:
- i. A quota should be put on the membership to ensure representative distribution however it was stated that this is the point that the motion is trying to get away from – committing members to undertake membership for a committee that they don't want to be involved in.
 - ii. Any member does not need to call a meeting as the committee exists as a back up to Council not being able to meet.
- c) The solution currently offered was acknowledged as a sticking plaster to a wider problem and that Council need to have a good hard look at itself and its purpose and does it best serve what the members want and need.
- d) Those present gave an indicative vote of wanting to move forward with the solution offered and expressed a great desire to move the democracy review forward.

5. PRESIDENTS REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was as tabled.

NOTED:

- a) Those present noted the report

6. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS AND SOCIETIES)

RECEIVED: The report was as tabled.

NOTED:

- a) The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) stated that he will be spreading out his leave over the next few month.
- b) Those present noted the report

7. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Education)

NOTED:

- a) The Deputy President (Education) presented to the Heads of Departments Lunch that went extremely well.
- b) Those present noted the report

10. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES)

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Finance & Services)

NOTED:

- a) Those present noted the report

11. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE) REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was as tabled.

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

Meeting closed 20.20

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on _____ 2015/16

_____ Chair of the Meeting