

UConnPIRG Core

Minutes

[4/20/15]

SU Room 217

Meeting called to order at: 7:03 PM

Attendees: Saman Azimi, Sam Hollister, Christian Allyn, Jeffrey Santi, Nichole Perron, Jamie Kalogeros, Stephan Vazquez, Joe Tomastik, Adedoyin Ladoja, Katherine McLeese, Gabriella Pagliuca, Lee Aggison, Ariana Javidi, Tedisha Brooks, Pauline Elmore, Matt Rowe

Also in attendance: Miguel Colon

Campaign Updates

- Antibiotics
 - Tie-Die event on the 30th on Fairfield Way
- Textbooks
 - See state update
- Solar
 - Carnival is on Wednesday because of rain today
- Hunger and Homelessness
 - Hunger-Cleanup working to raise \$1,000 very close
 - Tables every day this week, 11am-3pm, in the Union and on Fairfield Way
- Transit
 - Closed petition drive 204 petitions gathered
 - Lobbied legislators today
 - Will deliver transit petitions to the Governor before the end of the semester.

State & National

- Lobby Day today
 - Saman, Lee, Jeffrey, and Christian
 - Lobbied on:
 - Student Loan Bill of Rights
 - Capping the interest rate on student loans
 - Affordable Textbooks Bill
 - Transit
 - Great meetings with the following state representative and senators
 - Rep. Cristin McCarthy Vahey
 - Rep. Greg Haddad
 - Rep. Matthew Lesser
 - Rep. Roberta Willis
 - Rep. Roland Lemar
 - Rep. Steinberg
 - Sen. Catherine Osten
 - Sen. Clark Chapin
 - Sen. Henri Martin
 - Sen. Mae Flexer
 - Sen. Scott Frantz

Campaign Selection

- Go Solar! CT State Lead Campaign
 - Presented by Lee Aggison
 - Problem: Climate Change
 - Solution: Use more sustainable energy: solar
 - Goals: Push for big-box stores to put solar panels on their stores and distribution centers for praise and good press
- Antibiotics Campaign
 - Presented by Katherine McLeese
 - Problem: Antibiotic Resistant Infections
 - Solution: Stop using human antibiotics in meat production
 - Goals: Push Subway and other chain restaurants to stop using human antibiotics in meat production worldwide. Part of a national campaign.
- Textbooks Campaign
 - Presented by Saman Azimi
 - Problem: The cost of higher-education, particularly textbooks
 - Solution: Implement an open-source textbook program at the state level
 - Goals: Lobby for a textbook bill if it does not pass this legislative session and find professors willing to write open source textbooks.
- Democracy Campaign
 - Presented by Saman Azimi
 - Problem: Citizen United crowding out small donors from supporting candidates.
 - Solution: Small donor empowerment by giving small donors tax credits and state matching of small donor contributions
 - Goals: Implement this program, that already exist in New Haven, in Middletown and other municipalities pushing for a state standard.
- Plastic Bottles Campaign
 - Presented by Ariana Javidi
 - Problem: Plastic bottle pollution
 - Solution: Ban plastic bottles
 - Goal: Ban plastic bottles and bottled water at UConn, pressure the UConn administration to drop the Coke contract when it is up for renewal, implement vodawater systems, invented by a UConn alumni, across campus.
- Hunger and Homelessness
 - Presented by Adedoyin Ladoja
 - Problem: Hunger and Homeless
 - Solution: Re-educate the hungry, homeless, and poverty stricken to become productive members of society
 - Goal: Have a day at UConn to re-educate homeless and poverty stricken people to learn practical skills necessary for gaining employment, employment retention, and personal financial management.
- Discussion and vote was tabled because the meeting ran late.

-Motion was made by Adedoyin and seconded by Stephan to accept the minutes of 4.13.2015. The motion passed unanimously.

-Meeting was adjourned at 8:15

Respectfully Submitted,
Christian Allyn