

UConnPIRG Core Meeting Minutes 18-08
Monday October 23, 2017, 7 PM
SU 325

Voting Members: , Walter Dodson (Vice Chair), Alex Pawlak (Treasurer), Casey Lambert (Chair), Emily O'Hara (Secretary) Justin Kaiser, Sam Donahue, Bob Hannan, Matt Talley, Kharl Reynado, Kyleigh Hillerud, Andrew Frosti, Casey Saxton, Noah O'Connor, Kelly Flanagan, Antonio Cajigas, Danielle Hartshorn, Isabel Umland, Faizaan Siddiqui, Dylan DeMoura, Nate Aroian, Sara Mohamedzein, Arya Sayadi, Aaron Golab

Non-voting Members: Tori Zane

Guests: Arielle Mizrahi (Campus Organizer), Sasha Richardson (Advisor)

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Chair Casey Lambert

I. Introductions

II. Campaign Updates/ National Updates

a. 100% Renewable Energy—Walter Dodson

- i. Have collected 2,300 petitions, beating the goal of 2,000. 6,300 petitions have been collected in a year on campus.
- ii. Last week was a professor endorsement blitz in which outreach was done to professors asking them to sign on to 100% Renewable energy. Also went and visited professors' office hours. Came out with 53 endorsements.
- iii. Tables will be happening this week: 11-2 PM on Wednesday on Fairfield Way, 4-7 PM at South, and 11-2 on Fairfield Way on Friday. More events will be happening on Friday.
- iv. An LTE writing-training session will be happening on Friday; 3 LTEs were submitted. Walter is helping to write a bill that is a statement of support in USG for 100% renewable energy on campus
- v. On November 8th at 7 PM in CHEM A203, a film screening will be happening showing *An Inconvenient Sequel*
- vi. Kyleigh Hillerud: There is a 100% Renewable Energy rally being planned in February. DEEP released a comprehensive energy strategy that makes CT more dependent on fracked gas; we want all of the colleges in CT to send representatives. Meetings are 8 PM; see Kyleigh for more information
- vii. Please email Nate from 100% for group endorsements

b. Textbooks—Kharl Reynado

- i. Thursday at South Dining Hall from 5-7 PM
- ii. Propmaking: Thursday from 2-4 PM for table in collaboration with Save the Bees and Stop Styrofoam
- iii. Event: *Paywall* film screening next Wednesday

c. Save the Bees—Emily O'Hara

- i. Monday: Emily will be doing a class announcement in Dr. Legrand's class! Like and share our Facebook post about going to Spring Valley Student Farm. Table from 6-9 PM at McMahan Dining Hall
- ii. Tuesday: Table from 4-7 PM at South Dining Hall. Sign up here! Phonebanking from 7:30 PM-9 PM in SU 214. There will be candy!

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- iii. Wednesday: Post in Daily Digest about our service project. Phonebanking from 6-9 PM in SU 214. AGAIN: CANDY! Chalking on Fairfield Way at 9 PM!
 - iv. Thursday: Campaign meeting at 7 PM with an information session about BFFA
 - v. Friday: Visit Spring Valley Student Farm to plant pollinator-friendly shrubs!!
 - d. H&H—Casey Saxton
 - i. Fundraised by safe driving this weekend for students; full numbers will be disclosed at the campaign meeting this week
 - ii. Looking to get a musical guest for H&H Week
 - iii. H&H Week: Luke, coordinating the Children in Poverty Day met with a project coordinator in Community Outreach
 - 1. Looking to organize a gallery of artwork done by homeless people
 - a. Will be holding a film screening in coordination
 - 2. Thursday: Donations → “Stuff a car”
 - 3. Friday: More information about Flint Water Crisis
 - e. Stop Styrofoam—Justin Kaiser
 - i. Collected 75 photo petitions
 - ii. Table in McMahon from 5-8 PM collecting petitions
 - iii. Next week: Running tables on Wednesday and Friday. Calling in to Dunkin Donuts
 - iv. Social Media: @UConnStopStyro
 - f. Democracy—Noah O’Connor
 - i. Two tables last week: Wednesday and Friday. This week is focusing on recruitment with phonebanking
 - ii. Senate had issues last week, so the democracy bill will be brought up this week
 - iii. Panel will be after Thanksgiving break
 - g. National Pell Grants—Arielle Mizrahi
 - i. Senate voted late last week to cut \$2.6 billion from the education surplus.
 - ii. Pell program will be cut by \$2.6 billion
 - iii. There are significant threats facing the Pell Grant
 - iv. At UConn: +5,000 people are helped by the Pell Grant
 - v. Information will be forwarded to students by Arielle
- III. Business—Alex Pawlak
- a. Budget Planning for FY19 and FY20: Can that be pushed back to Thursday at 6:30? → Yes
- IV. AASHE Conference Presentation/ Take Aways/ Updates—Emily and Walter
- a. Walter Dodson: Conference was Sunday, October 15th. The day was broken up into a keynote followed by workshops. The keynote was given by the director of the Power Shift Network, which is a network of organizations trying to advance sustainability. She was an activist who turned her lifestyle into a career to make actual change.

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- b. Emily O'Hara: Attended workshops on Bee Campus USA and food insecurity. There is the potential to further develop on-campus gardens, create a UConn food pantry, and study the effects of these programs.
 - c. Walter Dodson: Attended workshops on zero-waste → as a university, trying to become a zero-waste university means that 90% of the waste on campus was reused or composted. The sporting events at the schools featured were zero-waste; volunteers stood behind trash bins and navigated trash into the appropriate slot. The universities then got subsidies for being green in this way. UConn has the potential to do this at soccer games, at Gampel, etc. Also attended a workshop on making Greek life more sustainable. Met the Executive Director of "Our Climate" and "Put a Price on It" which focuses on putting a carbon tax on energy. She thought that there was a great opportunity to work on UConn's campus (Lobbyist Jim Leahy agrees that the state is in a good place for this). Other schools also sent a significant number of students, which we should consider doing in the future.
 - i. Isabelle: Member of Eco Husky, went to the Hartford marathon and did exactly that with sporting events.
 - d. Emily O'Hara: Students have the potential to do case studies which can be featured at AASHE. We should consider doing a case study in the spring on our sustainability work to try and show case our efforts here at UConn.
- V. Conference Travel Discussion: Do we think they are valuable, should we continue to send people to them, what should be the process of sending people in the future (voting selection process, and application review process maybe?), and should we send larger groups general discussion
- a. General agreement in sending more students in the future
 - b. Walter Dodson: Keep the budget large to send as many students as possible
 - c. Nate: Likes the idea of an open application process, with officers or campaign coordinators deciding who goes.
 - d. Justin Kaiser: Set a maximum number of people and engage in a democratic process in core; students need to have a say in who goes and who brings back information.
 - i. Casey Lambert: Would applications get read in a brief email and voted on in core?
 - ii. Alex Pawlak: Don't force everyone to vote, just those who really want to view and decide based on the applications.
 - e. Matt Talley: Travel is expensive. By sending too many people to too many conferences, it might be a waste
 - i. Kelly Flanagan: Counterpoint to that. The conferences should be handled on a case-by-case basis. This conference was great because we sent two leaders with experience and interest. If there are other conferences, the attendees should include new leaders who can gain more experience from the conferences.
 - f. Walter Dodson: I believe we should cover as much ground as we can. Rather than sending 6 people to the same conference, we can send 2 different people to each different conference. That allows us to cover more ground. Although we didn't

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get every single workshop as a pair, we covered a lot of ground and got a lot of information.

i. Casey Lambert: How would we share information back to the core? Take notes and send them back?

1. Walter Dodson: Yes

VI. This Week

a. We're partnering with Community Outreach's civic engagement representative. There are three different tables on Thursday; if you're interested in local elections and getting people involved in local elections, we're registering people to vote with a coalition of groups

b. Walter Dodson: There are two members of USG that are write-ins for Town Council

VII. Announcements

a. If all coordinators could please utilize the folders in the new filing cabinet to put their campaign meetings sign-ins/minutes in one place, that would be great

b. All sign-up sheets should go in a folder

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM by Casey Lambert