

UConnPIRG Core

Minutes

[9/29/14]

SU Room 303

Meeting called to order at: 8:06 PM

Attendees: Amy Robinson, Jeffrey Santi, Scott Dombrowski, Sam Hollister, Saman Azimi, Matt Roe, Tom McGlone, Emma Kraner, Lian Kish, Christian Allyn, Anna Montenegro, Kei Pritsker, Marc Walsh, Kelsey Brennan, Oluwatoyin Alunnusotu

Also in attendance: Donna Farvard, Gina DeVivo Brassaw

- **Campaign Updates**
 - **New Voter's**
 - Got over 90 registrations today from Fairfield Way table and class raps with a goal of 300 for the week
 - Two dining hall tables on Tuesday and Wednesday
 - **Transportation**
 - Waiting to hear back from Evan on the campaign proposal
 - **Hunger and Homelessness**
 - Coming up with t-shirt designs
 - Planning to hold a sleep-out event H&H awareness week in November
 - RA's to set up bins for clothing drive
 - Looking for bins to use
 - **Textbooks**
 - Mark narrates the campaign story
 - Problem: textbooks are too expensive
 - \$5000 over the course of their career
 - 5 companies holding total control over market
 - Prescription drugs and textbooks are the two markets with this problem
 - We can stop the textbooks crisis today
 - Adopt open-source textbooks
 - Ask professors to use these
 - Ask administration to institute "pilot programs", saving millions for students
 - Availability to buy print versions for print price
 - Ask a single department, or FY classes
 - University will study the results for a year
 - PIRG is hosting a panel with senator Blumenthal over the topic of just open-source textbooks
 - By the end of the year, if this is successful, we could have the university agree to try open-source textbooks
 - Would save one single class \$20,000

- State universities (such as MD, WA) around the country have already implemented this
 - MD was resounding success
 - **Zero Waste**
 - Dining services has a new drying food products policy to reduce their waste mass
 - Therefore they are less receptive to composting
 - Other issues on campus on how students use their waste
 - Gong to do a waste audit with eco husky and facilities
 - Where can we cut back our waste the most?
 - Ban the bag campaign at the UConn Co-op
- **Minutes**
 - Saman entertains the motion to approve the minutes from September 24th, 2014, with the amendment of one abstention in the minutes
 - Emma motions
 - Sam seconds
 - Passes unanimously
- **Treasurer's Update**
 - Saman entertains the motion to approve the Transportation Invoice from Srping 2014 for \$6580
 - Emma motions
 - Anna seconds
 - Passes unanimously
 - Approve total campaign costs for this fall and we have the purchase orders, around \$80,000
- Campaign Purchase Orders 2014:
 - Zero Waste for \$18,069
 - H&H for \$10,480
 - New Voter's Project for \$26,380
 - Quick Hits for \$7,760
 - Textbooks for \$10,580
 - Transportation for \$7260
 - Saman entertains the motion to approve the amounts for the fall 2014 purchase orders at a total of \$80,460
 - Sam motions
 - Tom seconds
 - Passes unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

Minutes submitted by Andrea Hellwig