

*UConnPIRG Core*

Minutes

[4/13/15]

SU Room 221

Meeting called to order at: 7:05 PM

Attendees: Saman Azimi, Oluwatoyin Akinnusotu, Sam Hollister, Christian Allyn, Jeffrey Santi, Aeneas Merchant, Nichole Perron, Jamie Kalogeros, Candy Jin, Stephan Vazquez, Christine Atallah, Pauline Elmore, Tedisha Brooks, Joe Tomastik, Adedoyin Ladoja, Valeria Alfano, Jordyn Styczynski, Jessica Wallace, Katherine McLeese, Thomas Chadwick, Gabriella Pagliuca, Lee Aggison.

Also in attendance: Donna Farvard, Miguel Colon.

Campaign Updates

- Antibiotics
  - Tie-Die event on the 30th
- Textbooks
  - Meeting with professors and seeing if they are willing to implement open source textbooks
- Solar
  - Met with USG on Friday and they are in support
  - Met with Susan Herbst and she sounded like she was in support
- Hunger and Homelessness
  - Open Mike night this Thursday
  - Table this Thursday
  - Hunger Clean-Up
- Transit
  - Table last week gathered 43 petitions
  - Table this Friday 1:30-3:30 at Northwest Dining Hall
  - Scheduling lobby visits for lobby day

State & National

- State board Meeting
  - Saturday the 11th at the Student Union
    - State of the State Board
      - New Voter's Project: 600 registrations short. First year in 10 years that we could not tell the impact we made on the election in Connecticut. Recommendation of setting the goals as a group
      - Community Relations: Majority of students at UConn have signed our petitions.
      - Visibility: 2nd most liked student organization at UConn (2013-2014) survey.
      - Development: First time with full board in years focus on growing base and expanding to a new campus.

- Staff met goal of 3 of 3 staff in Connecticut not leaving PIRG.
- Lead Campaign: Go Solar 2015-2016 Campaign by 5-4 vote over antibiotics.
- ConnPIRG State Board Executive Committee
  - Chair: Saman Azimi
  - Vice-Chair: Stephanie Adamon
  - Treasurer: Thomas Chadwick
  - Secretary: Jordyn Styczynski

#### Treasurer's Update: Surplus Solutions

- 154,000 Surplus by end of next fiscal year.
- Reasons why we want to spend the surplus down:
  - Being good stewards of Student Fees.
  - Not looking to spend the money to spend the money, looking to accomplish our mission.
  - One time expenditures are great but will not spend the surplus down enough nor effectively accomplishing our mission.
- Proposed spending ideas.
  - Talking with the Center of Career Development to set up a program to educate the homeless to become competitive members of society.
    - Would not be funded though H and H account.
  - Hire a Hunger and Homelessness fellow at the state level.
    - Would not be funded though H and H account.
  - Adding a new chapter at another campus (Listed in order of priority).
    - Eastern Connecticut State University. 'Represent Us' working on PIRGy issues at Eastern currently.
    - Central Connecticut State University
    - UConn Stamford
    - UConn Waterbury
    - Yale
  - Helping solve race and intolerance related issues.
    - May not be within PIRG's mission.
  - Giving out free promotional items..
    - Advancing name recognition, visibility, and campaigns.
    - Estimated to only spend down 10% of the surplus at most.
  - Annual Big Open to all Student Event.
    - Carnival
    - Concert
    - Talent Showcase
    - Parade
    - Start Planning in the summer.
    - Poll the students to what event they would like us to hold.
    - Possible co-sponsoring with other student organizations like SUBOG and/or WHUS.
    - Hand out petition packets.
  - Activist Coalition like ECOalition.

-Hiring more people at the state level other than the Hunger and Homelessness fellow.

-USG Petition to protest UConn Funding Cuts.

-Minutes of 4.6.2015.

-Amendment to change amount of Toxics Purchase order from \$14,820 to \$14,320.

-Amendment to change Lee Affison to Lee Aggison.

Motion made by Saman to approve the minutes of 4.6.2015 with the above amendments. The motion was seconded by Lee and passed with abstentions only from Saman and Joe.

-Gave out thank-you card and gift to Donna.

-Bag made out of old posters.

-Filler made out of shredded blank petitions.

*Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM*

Minutes submitted by Christian Allyn