

*UConnPIRG Core*

Minutes

[2/16/15]

SU Room 319

Meeting called to order at: 6:00 PM

**Attendees:** Saman Azimi, Andrea Hellwig, Tom McGlone, Aeneas Merchant, Katherine McLeese, Jamie Kalogeros, Nichole Perron, Lee Aggison, Toyin Akinnusotu, Thomas Chadwick, Christian Allyn, Scott Dombrowski, Ellie Woodard, Matt Roe, Christine Atallah, Valeria Alfano, Ben Santiago, Addy Ladoja, Jess Wallace, Jordyn Styczynski, Joe Tomastik, Jeffrey Santi, Steven David, Candy Jin, Stephan Vazquez

Also in attendance: Donna Farvard, Gina DeVivo Brassaw

- **Campaign Updates**
  - **Transit**
    - Went to legislator for transpo sub-committee
    - Governor will publish a plan this week
    - Launched petition today, will be available in office
    - Table next week
  - **Solar**
    - Got lots of petitions first few weeks, hit the goal of 2000
    - Next steps to meet with admins about getting more specific terminology on solar into the master plan
    - Solar karaoke idea for an event, possibly in the union
  - **Textbooks**
    - Will meet with Sally Reiss
    - Getting faculty endorsements for support this week
  - **Hunger and Homelessness**
    - Auction went well
    - Trying to partner up with RHA to create and opportunity for people to learn about hunger and poverty in our area – in process with this
    - Planning for hunger cleanup and clothing/canned food drive
  - **Antibiotics**
    - Table last Friday
    - Day of action
      - Going to flood McDonalds with different petitions, photo and written
      - Table at McMahan tentatively 12-2:30 on Wednesday
      - Call-in: PIRG members around the state will call McDonalds to express need for antibiotic-free meat
  - **Clean Water**
    - Endorsing Blumenthal for the Clean Water Act
    - Contact Jess for materials and training
  - **Net Neutrality**
    - First meeting last week

- Photo petitions to educate student body
  - Goal to get the university to take a concrete stance on net neutrality,
    - Using student petitions and faculty endorsements (goal of 30)
- **State & National**
  - Retreat a good way to learn about the organization
    - Meet professional activists who have been doing this for years
    - Will send out RSVP another time
    - Sledding, hiking, bonfire
    - 68 people total attending
  - NSF
    - Organizing directors from around the country attended, as well as students from other chapters around the country
    - Sharing ideas with other chapters
    - More advanced trainings
    - Lobbied to stop college campus debit card
    - Takeaways
      - Build relations with students in the chapter
        - Create an additional chapter meeting that is more social
- **Chapter Updates**
  - Campaign Proposals
    - Public Transit and Clean Water
      - Transit – first time in half a century that transit has been an issue at the state level, last time building of the state highway system
      - Working on implementing transit across Connecticut
      - Second half working with master planners, UConn-centric
      - Voting in for services
    - Clean Water Quick Hit
      - Clean water act has loopholes, 80% of streams and are not protected, they aren't boat-able
      - Congress has a 90 day period to respond to the rule that Obama will probably pass, and there are some voting members against this
      - Good opportunity to finally win
      - Senator Blumenthal supports the rule but not talking to colleagues about it, make him go from supporter to “champ”, get him to lobby his colleagues
      - Faculty and local officials to sign an endorsement to call on Blumenthal
      - Recruited coordinator and intern already
  - Saman entertains the motion to approve running Transit and Clean Water this semester
    - Thomas motions
    - Scott Seconds
    - Passes unanimously with two abstentions

- **Minutes**

- Saman entertains a motion to approve the minutes from February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015
  - Toyin Motions
  - Thomas seconds
  - Passes unanimously with two abstentions

*Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM*

Minutes submitted by Andrea Hellwig