

UConnPIRG Core

Minutes

[2/23/15]

Student Union 303

Meeting called to order at: 7:05 PM

Attendees: Saman Azimi, Sam Hollister, Tom McGlone, Jeffrey Santi, Christian Allyn, Katherine McLeese, Thomas Chadwick, Adedoyin Ladoja, Ben Santiago, Stephan Vazquez, Jamie Kalogeros, Nichole Perron, Candace Pratt, Jordyn Styczynski, Jessica Wallace, Sneha Jayaray, Oluwatoyin Akinnusotu, Gabriella Pagliuca, Simran Kaur, Aeneas Merchant, Valeria Alfano, Joseph Tomastik, Candy Jin

Also in attendance: Gina Devivo Brassaw

- **Campaign Updates**

- Solar
 - Running table this week
 - Finding out date for Solar Cafe
- ABX
 - Day of Action went well - all goals were surpassed
 - Goals of campaign are showing a lot of progress
 - In the process of planning panel for March
- Textbooks
 - Conference tomorrow for implementation at state level of ideas
 - Hearing at state house on Thursday
- Hunger and Homelessness
 - Planning hunger clean up
 - Planning café
 - Raised around \$650 from date auction so far
- Transit
 - Working with Evan Preston in governors office about wants of the campaign
 - Table this week on Wednesday
- Clean Water
 - Continuing to go forward gaining petitions and faculty endorsements
 - Culminating in Town Hall Meeting with Sen. Blumenthal and local elected officials

- **State & National**

- ConnPIRG/MASSPIRG Summit this past weekend went well
- About 70 people in attendance between ConnPIRG and MassPIRG
 - Christian: Nice to talk with veteran PIRG staff
 - Ben: Cool to see the other states and hear their ideas
 - Katie: Good to exchange ideas with other coordinators at other campuses
- Marc Walsh's legislative update from retreat
 - Bag Ban - Evan Preston provided testimony in favor

- Transit got Hartford Courant editorial in support of ConnPIRG's position
 - Bipartisan support for Open Textbooks
 - Lots of legislators focusing on ConnPIRG's higher education coalition
 - Public financing for elections
 - Race between Republicans and Democrats for who is more supportive of public financing
 - Middletown to begin a trial program to serve as a model
- **Chapter Updates**
 - Resignation of Secretary Andrea Hellwig
 - Decision by exec. board to leave position vacant until regular elections in order to reorganize and clarify responsibilities of position
- **History of PIRG**
 - Student funded, student run, non-profit organization
 - Ralph Nader for consumer protection
 - Used money from lawsuit against General Motors to fund the start of PIRG's and other organizations
 - Creation of USPIRG to unite PIRG's and increase efficiency
- **Tripod Discussion: Visibility**
 - What is Visibility?
 - How recognizable to the campus are we?
 - Do people know us?
 - Do they know the PIRG mission?
 - How do people perceive us?
 - Would we win a reaff vote? (vote to keep our fee)
- How are we doing on Visibility right now?
 - A: People know our name, mission, and like us
 - B: People know the name and what we do but don't generally don't like us
 - C: People know the name and kind of what we do but may not like us (mostly know our issues)
 - D: People have heard the name but have no idea what we do
 - F: People have no idea who we are
- What do we need to do to get a better grade?
 - As a chapter?
 - Paint rock, posters about pirlg, costumed characters, chalking, facebook events, social media posts?
 - Saturation is key; everywhere the eye can see
 - Consistency in placement and color; theme to color, etc
 - Good visibility requires a detailed plan
 - Making known that we are trying to save money on textbooks/people can benefit from our work, more fun events, doing productive things is fun, more unique and engaging events while getting goals met, getting friends on board with our mission, getting professors on board who will then spread the word to their students and staff, social media
- **Announcements**
 - Canvass

- Paid work position over school breaks
 - Door to door campaigning to raise money and gain members for ConnPIRG and Environment CT
 - Spring break and Summer break opportunities
 - Spring break canvass will operate out of Storrs
- Elections
 - Planned for March 30th
- Treasurer's Update - Reimburse Christian Allyn for driving to and from the ConnPIRG/MASSPIRG Summit in the amount of \$101.43.
 - Tom motions
 - Toyin seconds
 - Passes unanimously with two abstentions
- **Minutes**
 - Amendments proposed to February 16th, 2015 minutes to include Candy Jin and Stephan Vazquez in attendance and change "they" to "governor"
 - Saman entertains a motion to approve February 16th, 2015 minutes with the aforementioned amendments
 - Tom motions
 - Sam seconds
 - Passes unanimously with two abstentions

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Minutes submitted by Katherine McLeese