

UConnPIRG Core Meeting
Tuesday September 22th 2015 at 7:03PM
Student Union Room 320

Attendance:

Voting Members: Saman Azimi, Oluwatoyin (Toyin) Akinnusotu, Jordyn Styczynski, Lee Aggison, Primitiva (Prima) Grandante, Abby Katz, Gabriella Pagliuca, Ariana Javidi, Matt Roe, Christian Allyn
Non-Voting Members: Sneha Jayaraj, Joseph Goncalves, Emmett O'Donnell Gwangsu (Ted) Choi, Nick Ravalese, Faye Picagli, Dea Acorda, Natalia Castro, Casey Lambert, Ian Beattie
Guests: Gina DeVivo-Brassaw, Donna Farvard

Meeting called to order at 7:03PM by acting chair Saman Azimi.

Saman called this meeting to order because Addy had a Resident Assistant emergency she had to attend to.

I. Intros: At the beginning of every UConnPIRG Core meeting it is a custom to ask upon the attendance of the meeting to state their name, class at UConn, and campaign they are working on, if applicable, along with an answer to the posed intro question. The intro question for this meeting, asked by Toyin Akinnusotu, was, "What is your favorite holiday?" All persons in attendance answered said question with gusto. Discussion ended at 7:08PM

III. Updates

A. Campaign Updates

Transportation- Reported by Transportation Campaign Coordinator Christian Allyn. The transportation Campaign will be attending the screening of the Connecticut Urban and Transportation Film Festival at UConn on the 24th of September. Discussion ended at 7:09pm.

Textbooks- Reported by Textbooks Campaign Coordinator Toyin Akinnusotu. The campaign will be meeting with the Vice Provost of Libraries Martha Bedard on the 23rd of September at 9am to discuss the progress of the open source textbooks implementation at UConn. Discussion ended at 7:10pm.

Antibiotics- Reported by Antibiotics Campaign Coordinator Abby Katz. Hourly coordinators are needed for the blitz week which the week of October 5th. If you are interested, contact Abby through her UConn email. Discussion ended at 7:11pm.

Bottle Ban- Reported by Bottle Ban Campaign Coordinator Ariana Javidi. There will be a prop making session on Friday the 25th from 11am-3pm and a table on Tuesday the 29th 11am-3pm. Discussion ended at 7:11pm.

B. State Update

Retreat- Saman reminded the Core of this coming weekend's ConnPIRG and MASSPIRG retreat this weekend and emphasized to the core the benefits of attending. Lee mentioned that he went last year that it was great to meet new people. The retreat will be from 11am-6pm on Saturday and from 11am to 2:30pm on Sunday. Discussion ended at 7:12pm.

UConnPIRG Core Meeting
Tuesday September 22th 2015 at 7:03PM
Student Union Room 320

C. Chapter Updates

Resignation- Saman reminded the Core that Addy stepped in as an acting chair and that the Core should hold an election for chapter chair soon. Saman suggested that the election be during the next core meeting. Jordyn agreed with Saman's suggestion and the Core nodded their heads in approval. Saman stated that if you would like to be in consideration for chapter chair, let Saman know. Discussion ended at 7:16pm.

Ariana, Donna and Gina arrived to the room at 7:16

The Minutes of the Core Meeting held of 9.8.2015 were passed around at 7:16 to look over during the recruitment drive discussion.

Recruitment Drive- Saman started the discussion of the recruitment drive and passed the discussion first to Donna. Donna stated that there were a lot of successes because of the recruitment drive and some actions that UConnPIRG could have done better to make the recruitment drive more successful into the future.

Successes:

- There was the goal to get 120 students to the kickoff drive and 84 students actually showed, however this has been the largest kickoff meeting UConnPIRG has had in a long time.
- The volunteer show rate was 66% over the goal of 50%.
- Yes over the phone 67% over the goal of 50%.
- 150 people volunteered with us this semester.
- Early tables had a high volunteer rate.

Actions to do better next semester:

- Goal of 1400 cards collected this semester but only 1114 were.
- Not enough class raps.
- Ask more first time volunteers to volunteer with us again.
- Late tables had a low volunteer rate.
- Short on mega phone banking hours.
- Follow up with people after kickoff.

Suggestions from the chapter:

Prima- Send out an email before phonebank to let people know we're going to call them. Mention internship opportunities in rap.

Ian- People did not pick up the first time because people did not know who was calling.

Dea- Google form in email to find out their interest and what they are interested in, was confused when she received a call, joined because she believed she could change something.

Abby- Say in the class rap that students should expect a call if they fill out a card, mention concrete actions people have taken because of us.

Jordyn- Rap can be shorter, emphasize all campaigns and successes.

Ariana- Emphasize internships are for credit. Propmaking always goes well for a first time volunteer event.

UConnPIRG Core Meeting
Tuesday September 22th 2015 at 7:03PM
Student Union Room 320

Saman- Had 22% return rate in classes he rapped because he mentioned all campaigns, gave a personal story and advocated for political engagement.

Christian- Had highest return rate when told personal story.

Donna- Rap was short as possible and if shorter students would lose interest.

Saman shifted discussion to the table on the 22nd where 172 voter registration cards were collected over the goal of 100 and asked how did we go over our goal?

Suggestions from the chapter:

Prima- Multiple experienced people were tabling, seemed like more people were passing by the library.

Ian- What we were tabling for was very clear cut, and recruitment got our name out.

Christian- Passive tabling experience and music helped.

Donna suggested we should do a variety of other volunteer opportunities like faculty endorsements, letter to the editor writing, etc.

Discussion ended at 7:44pm

Fall 2015 Tier III Survey Questions: Saman brought up that the fall Tier III survey questions need assessment by the core. If a core member has questions to add they are encouraged to let Saman know of them. Donna asked how many questions are we allowed to have and Saman answered between 5-8 but right now we only have two. Discussion ended at 7:50pm.

USG Ex-Officio Seat Available: Saman stated that there is a vacant USG Ex-Officio seat available to UConnPIRG and he suggested that the Core have an election this meeting to fill the seat. The responsibilities of the person elected to the USG Ex-Officio seat are to go to the bi-weekly USG Senate meetings, speak at these meetings if need be and report the outcomes of the senate meeting to Core. The Core agreed to have an election. Saman opened up the floor to nominations. Saman nominated himself to run for the USG Ex-Officio seat and he accepted his nomination. Christian nominated himself to run for the USG Ex-Officio seat and accepted his nomination. Both candidates were given one minute to give a speech. Saman closed nominations and appointed Jordyn as acting chair and recording secretary during the vote. Candidates left the room at 8:01pm.

Candidates returned to the room at 8:03. Vote totals by secret ballot:

Saman- 6

Christian- 3

Abstentions- 0

Saman was elected to fill the USG Ex-Officio seat at 8:03pm.

UConnPIRG Core Meeting
Tuesday September 22th 2015 at 7:03PM
Student Union Room 320

Policy Council- Saman stated that there is a vacant seat on the SUBOG Policy Council available to UConnPIRG. Saman held the seat in the 2014-2015 academic year and resigned to make it available to another member of UConnPIRG. The responsibilities of the person elected to the SUBOG Policy Council seat are to go the bi-weekly SUBOG Policy Council meetings, speak at these meetings if need be and report the outcomes of the meeting to Core. Saman opened the floor to nominations. Saman nominated Christian to run for the vacant seat on the SUBOG Policy Council. Christian accepted Saman's nomination. No other nominations were heard from the Core. Saman entertained a motion to elect Christian to fill the SUBOG Policy Council seat. Lee made that motion and Matt seconded. The motion passed with the following results at 8:04.

Yes- Matt Roe, Toyin Akinnusotu, Jordyn Styczynski, Lee Aggison, Prima Grandante, Abby Katz, Gabriella Pagliuca, Ariana Javidi,

No- 0

Abstain- Saman Azimi, Christian Allyn

Reimbursements-

Saman entertained a motion that \$7200 be allocated for Donna's wages from 8.24.2015 to 4.30.2016. Abby made the motion and Lee seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 8:04.

Saman entertained a motion to the Core for the following reimburse Natalia Castro:

\$2.54 for paper plates for Bottle Ban photo petitions.

\$9.00 for glue, paint and some other small crafts for Bottle Ban photo petitions.

\$28.58 for stencils, posters, and paint for Bottle Ban poster

Sum- \$40.12 to Natalia Castro.

Jordyn made the motion and Lee seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 8:05pm.

Minutes- Saman entertained a motion to approve the minutes from 9.8.2015. The motion was made by Jordyn and seconded by Abby. The motion passed unanimously at 8:06pm.

Saman adjourned the meeting at 8:06pm.

Submitted by,
Christian Allyn
UConnPIRG Secretary