

**UConnPIRG Core Meeting**  
Tuesday October 6th 2015 at 7:05PM  
Student Union Room 322

**Attendance:**

Voting Members: Saman Azimi, Jordyn Styczynski, Adedoyin (Addy) Ladoja, Abby Katz, Emmett O'Donnell, Gwangsu (Ted) Choi, Nick Ravalese, Ian Beattie, Bob Hannan, Gabriella Pagliuca, Linda Fuller, Alexa Marucci, Ariana Javidi, Christian Allyn

Non-Voting Members: Natalia Castro, Phillip Sepulveda

Late Voting Members: Faye Picagli, Matt Roe

Guests: Gina DeVivo-Brassaw, Donna Farvard

**Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Jordyn Styczynski.**

**I. Intros:** At the beginning of every UConnPIRG Core meeting it is accustom 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 Abby Katz was, "What is your favorite candy?" All persons in attendance answered said question with gusto.

Faye Picagli arrived at 7:08pm.

Matt Roe arrived at 7:09pm.

Discussion ended at 7:10pm.

**III. Updates**

**A. Campaign Updates**

**Democracy-** Reported by Democracy Campaign Coordinator Saman Azimi. There was a Democracy Clipboarding session on Fairfield Way on Tuesday the 6th of October. Bob reported that over 248 petitions were collected. Day of Action will be Thursday the 15th of October. Saman stated that there will be a letter to the editor writing session on Friday the 9th of October. Discussion ended at 7:11pm.

**Antibiotics-** Reported by Antibiotics Campaign Coordinator Abby Katz. Hourly coordinators and volunteers are needed for the Blitz week tables from the 12th-15th of October. If you are interested, contact Abby. There will be a campaign meeting tomorrow and a phonebank on Thursday the 8th. Discussion ended at 7:12pm.

**Bottle Ban-** Reported by Bottle Ban Campaign Coordinator Ariana Javidi. There will be a table on Wednesday the 14th and another table on Thursday the 21st on Fairfield Way.

Discussion ended at 7:13pm.

**Hunger and Homelessness-** Reported by Hunger and Homelessness Campaign Coordinator Addy. There will be a table Thursday the 8th in McMahan and a sign-up sheet was passed around. The campaign is planning a formal dance or ball for Saturday the 14th of November which will be discussed later in the meeting. Discussion ended at 7:15pm.

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**Textbooks-** Reported by Donna Farvard in absence of Textbooks Campaign Coordinator Toyin Akinnusotu. There will be a lunch table at Northwest on Wednesday the 7th of October. Discussion ended at 7:16pm.

**Solar-** Report given by Solar Campaign Coordinator Jordyn Styczynski. There will be a table Thursday the 8th of October in South. Discussion ended at 7:16pm.

**Transportation-** Reported by Transportation Campaign Coordinator Christian Allyn. There will be a transit campaign table on Tuesday the 12th during lunch in Towers. Discussion ended at 7:17pm.

### **B. Chapter Updates**

**Budgeting-** Saman suggested a cap for individual campaign spending on crafts so that we as a chapter spend our allocated money responsibly. Saman suggested that \$35 be allocated per campaign each semester and opened the floor to discussion

Jordyn asked how are we going to buy community paint and chalk?

-Addy suggested that we allocate \$35 for community crafts.

Jordyn asked how Saman came up with the \$35 number?

-Saman stated that he rounded the spending on crafts for each campaign for last year.

Abby suggested that we get cardboard from the mailrooms.

Saman suggested that the amount be lowered to \$20 for just the rest of this semester to save money. Jordyn entertained a motion so set a cap of \$20 for every campaign on crafts for the rest of this semester. The motion was made by Saman, seconded by Addy and passed unanimously at 7:29pm.

**Surplus-** Saman opened the discussion of the Surplus on what should we spend it on? Should we establish an office budget? Saman also stated that we have a responsibility to spend our surplus down by following PIRG Funding Principals

1. Cover our costs on campus.
2. Pay for program in state to run campaigns.
3. Federal programs run by US PIRG on behalf of UConnPIRG.
4. Administrative responsibilities and legal advice.
5. Look to see where we can add more to strengthen our organization.

Saman concluded by asking the question that when we think our spending how is that going to enact change? Jordyn opened the floor up to input.

-Abby suggested a new monitor.

-Jordyn agreed and suggested an organizational budget.

-Christian agreed with the suggestion for the organizational budget so that the discussion does not get distracted by little things.

-Saman suggested getting a calendar white board.

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-Christian suggested that we get our furniture through Bob's Discount Furniture because Bob's gave SUBOG a discount.

-Saman suggested that instead of paying out \$.575 per mile driving we should instead pay out \$.2875 per mile driven and only drive within 200 miles. If we as a chapter have to travel over 200 miles we will fly. Jordyn entertained a motion that members are to travel by car within 200 miles, and to fly when traveling over 200 miles and that members that drive will be reimbursed \$.2875. The motion was made by Saman, seconded by Abby and passed unanimously at 7:45pm.

-Saman said his vision was for the New Voter's Campaign to have its own organizer during the running of that campaign so that we can get more people registered to vote.

-Ariana stated that more staff is better.

-Abby suggested staff to individually coordinate priority campaigns.

-Christian asked about giving a raise to Donna?

-Saman stated that Donna's wage was competitive at present.

-Donna stated that the salary does increase over time to adjust with inflation and that a raise would give an unfair incentive for people to apply to UConn and people who are in the public interest realm but may not have experience with the student PIRGs to apply setting UConnPIRG at a disadvantage.

-Gina stated that when students created Donna's position after the restoration of the PIRG fee, they chose to combine both the roles of student organizing and student leadership development into one position but those roles can easily be split into two positions.

Discussion ended at 7:54pm.

**Chapter Social-** Jordyn brought up the topic and gave the floor to Addy. Addy said that it was her responsibility as vice chair to create a space for us to not only work with each other but to network with each other as friends. She suggested that UConnPIRG could have a social, it could be completely up to decide what that would look like but wanted to have a quick discussion on some ideas on what that would look like that is fun and appropriate. Abby asked when and how often these event would occur. Addy stated that there would be one big event a semester but as many small events in the semester as the chapter wants. Addy opened the floor up to suggestions.

-Emmitt suggested a Super Smash Bros. Tournament.

-Saman suggested ping-pong and sarcastically suggested a hike.

-Abby suggested ice skating.

-Jordyn suggested a movie night.

Addy closed the discussion by suggesting a ball or dance at 8:00pm.

**Reimbursements-**

Jordyn entertained a motion to the Core for the following reimbursement to Abby.

\$12.47 for crafts for an Antibiotics Campaign Poster

Saman made the motion and Addy seconded. Abby recused herself and the vote was as follows:

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Yes: Saman Azimi, Jordyn Styczynski, Adedoyin (Addy) Ladoja, Emmett O' Donnell, Gwangsu (Ted) Choi, Nick Ravalese, Ian Beattie, Bob Hannan, Gabriella Pagliuca, Linda Fuller, Alexa Marucci, Ariana Javidi, Christian Allyn

Recused: Abby Katz

The motion passed at 8:01pm.

**Minutes-** Jordyn entertained a motion to approve the minutes from 9.29.2015. The motion was made by Addy and seconded by Abby. The motion passed unanimously at 8:02pm.

Jordyn adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm.

Submitted by,  
Christian Allyn  
UConnPIRG Secretary