

UConnPIRG Core Meeting Minutes 18-07
Monday September 25, 2017, 7 PM
SU 325

Voting Members: Emily O’Hara (Secretary), Walter Dodson (Vice Chair), Alex Pawlak (Treasurer), Casey Lambert (Chair)—Late Arrival, Justin Kaiser, Matt Talley, Kelly Flanagan, Antonio Cajigas, Vincent Cajigas, Andrew Frosti, Sam Donahue, Noah O’Connor, Bob Hannan, Kharl Reynado, Kyleigh Hillerud, Chad Schroeder, Trinity Torgerson, Aaron Golab, Natalie Roach, Mara Tu, Emmett O’Donnell, Faizaan Siddiqui, Ian Beattie, Matthew Byanyima
Non-voting Members: Claire Fagan, Dylan DeMoura, Asher Freedman, Mariah Balestracci, Abena Asante
Guests: Arielle Mizrahi (Campus Organizer)

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by Vice Chair Walter Dodson

- I. Introductions
- II. Business: Conducted by Vice Chair Walter Dodson while Chair Casey Lambert is absent
 - a. Walter Dodson—The numbers that were submitted for the printer and refrigerator for the office were too low. Walter motions that by unanimous consent that the allotments for the printer and refrigerator are \$300 each.
 - i. Emmett O’Donnell seconds the motion.
 - ii. Passes unanimously
 - b. Walter Dodson—Last week an opportunity became apparent for two members of the chapter to attend the AASHE conference, a public sustainability conference. Emily was invited by Bee Campus USA to attend, and would like to attend to network with other Bee Campuses. She will also be sharing the pollinator-related sustainability efforts going on at UConn and UConnPIRG. She would also like to bring back more information regarding the threats facing pollinators, and how the university can improve its sustainability efforts with that information. Walter was asked to attend by the Campus Organizer, which was emphasized by Organizing Director Sam Gibb. Walter runs the 100% campaign, the Statewide Lead Campaign, which affects UConn Storrs, Trinity College, and UConn Hartford. Sustainability at the collegiate level is significant, and Walter would like to attend to understand the processes for making those changes in a grassroots way. He believes he would gain valuable information to bring back to the university, as well as the other chapters of ConnPIRG. Walter is also in the statewide role, and can disseminate information to a number of important parties.
 - i. Kharl Reynado: Walter is going on behalf of ConnPIRG, a statewide organization, and Emily will attend as a representative of Save the Bees.
 - ii. Walter motions to nominate and send Emily to the AASHE conference as a representative of Bee Campus USA.
 1. Justin Kaiser seconds the motion.
 2. Emily O’Hara abstains
 3. Excluding Emily’s abstention, all voting members vote for the motion to send Emily to the AASHE conference
 - iii. Emily motions to nominate and send Walter to the AASHE conference as a representative of ConnPIRG and the 100% renewable campaign
 1. Kelly Flanagan seconds the motion
 2. Walter Dodson abstains

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3. Excluding Walter's abstention, all voting members vote for the motion to send Walter to the AASHE conference
- III. Business—The Vice Chair is relieved of the responsibility of conducting business as Chair Casey Lambert is now present (7:25 PM)
- a. Reimbursement—Casey Lambert
 - i. Emily O'Hara paid AASHE Student Summit registration fees of \$145. Casey motions to reimburse Emily \$145 for her registration fees.
 1. Walter Dodson seconds the motion
 2. Emily O'Hara abstains
 3. Excluding Emily's abstention, all voting members vote for Emily to be reimbursed for the \$145 registration fee.
 - ii. Casey paid for Walter's AASHE Student Summit registration fees of \$145. Emily motions to reimburse Casey \$145 for the registration fees.
 1. Bob Hannan seconds the motion
 2. Casey Lambert and Walter Dodson abstain
 3. Excluding Casey and Walter's abstentions, all voting members vote for the motion to reimburse Casey Lambert \$145 for the AASHE conference registration fee.
 - b. Travel Expenses—Casey Lambert
 - i. \$2500 travel limit for Emily and Walter's flights and hotel rooms. This accounts for travel, hotels, and meals.
 - ii. Casey motions to set a travel limit of \$2500
 1. Bob Hannan seconds the motion
 2. Emily O'Hara and Walter Dodson abstain
 3. Excluding Emily and Walter's abstentions, all voting members vote for the motion to pay up to \$2500 in travel expenses for Emily and Walter to attend the AASHE
 - c. Leadership retreat food reimbursements
 - i. Kelly Flanagan purchased food for the ConnPIRG Leadership Retreat from the previous weekend.
 - ii. Casey motions to reimburse Kelly for the food she purchased at a max of \$70 for the food she purchased
 1. Alex Pawlak seconds the motion
 2. Kelly Flanagan abstains
 3. Excluding Kelly's abstention, all voting members vote for the motion to reimburse Kelly for up to \$70 in food expenses from the retreat
- IV. Campaign Updates
- a. Textbooks—Kharl Reynado
 - i. One of the members of the campaign is going to try to get on air with a politician on WHUS. Will also be publishing a report based on a survey from last semester about how much students are spending on textbooks, hopefully to release by Thanksgiving break. Will be working with the libraries, and will be building a giant textbook for visibility.

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- ii. The library will be holding Open Access Month, and the campaign will be working with the library. The campaign will be creating a video to demonstrate student opinion on textbooks
- b. Ban Styrofoam—Justin Kaiser
 - i. Styrofoam had a table that ended up with 138 petitions gathered
 - ii. Another table will be held the week after this, this week will be focused on databasing the petitions gathered, while also propmaking
- c. Save the Bees—Emily O’Hara
 - i. Looking to purchase a bee costume for the visibility of the campaign
 - ii. Meeting with professor this week, as well as with manager of Spring Valley Student Farms
 - iii. Table last week collected 135 photo petitions thanking UConn for becoming a Bee Campus USA
 - iv. Postering will be happening on Wednesday at 5 PM in the office; 200 posters will be going up to increase visibility around the campaign and on Bee Campus USA
- d. 100% Renewable Energy—Walter Dodson
 - i. Photo petition table last week: Goal: 30 petitions. Actual: 77. Met a man who works with the EPA and will be getting in contact with him. This week is the 1K in 1 week blitz. Hoping to collect 1,000 petitions. There will be 5 tables for the next 4 days.
 - ii. 100% Renewable twitter: @UConn100percent
 - iii. Blitz event next Tuesday and Thursday: Class raps, postering, flyering, dorm storming
- e. Democracy campaign—Matt Byanyima
 - i. Made a plan for the semester
 - ii. Citizens Elections Program: Improves transparency. Under fire. Have reached out to UConn Democrats and have agreed to organize an event before the deadline. Noah O’Connor has reached out to the USG Election Oversight Committee to begin the process of trying to make USG elections ranked choice.
 - iii. Event: Discuss electoral reforms (Fair Representation Act). Panel discussion; will be inviting Professor Singer, Representative Elliot, potentially another representative from the Working Families Party.
 - iv. Hoping to get USG to take a position and give support to the Citizens Election Program
 - v. Meet from 5:30-6:30 on Wednesdays
- f. Hunger and Homelessness—Casey Lambert
 - i. Table tonight, table on Friday from 4-7 PM in Whitney Dining Hall
 - ii. Last semester was focused on Syrian Refugee help. There will be a panel discussion in Austin from 3-4:30 on Thursday on income inequality; unrelated to the campaign from last semester.
 - iii. Divided into subcommittees last meeting
- g. Coordinators—Emily O’Hara

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- i. All campaign coordinators should send their member list to Emily O'Hara as soon as possible
 - h. Arielle Mizrahi: If you're doing the internship program, and you believe you might not be able to do 10-12 hours, you should sign up for tables.
 - i. Activist classes begin this week: Tuesdays at 5 OR Wednesdays at 5 every week
 - 1. This week: Semester plans, making semester plans
- V. Retreat—Justin Kaiser
 - a. Plan to demonstrate at the State Capitol on 100% Renewable
 - b. Ran a variety of trainings that new and old members learned from: Tabling, Semester Planning, How to Run an Effective Meeting, Event Planning
 - c. Ended with a 100% breakout to discuss action statewide: Demonstration in Hartford will be well-planned
 - i. If anyone is interested in working to help organize the rally, get in contact with the 100% renewable campaign members who attended the meeting (Chad, Kyleigh, Faizaan)
 - d. Discussion
 - i. Chad: Useful, learned how to do a semester plan.
 - ii. Faizaan: Thought the semester plan was run well as a workshop
 - iii. Emily: Proud to have run the retreat
 - iv. Noah: Glad to have a refresher
 - v. Ian: Went to an intriguing tabling training
- VI. By-Law discussion has been moved to next week's meeting
- VII. Announcements
 - a. Casey Saxton: President of Women's Legacy, which wants to do a video in light of recent statements. At least 300 people showing unity. Wants as many people to be a part of it as possible. Information session on October 9, at 5:30.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM

Minutes submitted by Emily O'Hara