

UConnPIRG Core Meeting Minutes 18-07  
Monday October 16, 2017, 7 PM  
SU 325

Voting Members: Alex Pawlak (Treasurer), Casey Lambert (Chair), Justin Kaiser, Matt Talley, Antonio Cajigas, Vincent Cajigas, Andrew Frosti, Sam Donahue, Noah O'Connor, Bob Hannan, Kharl Reynado, Kyleigh Hillerud, Chad Schroeder, Aaron Golab, Natalie Roach, , Emmett O'Donnell, Ian Beattie, Matthew Byanyima; Late Arrivals—Kelly Flanagan, Samuel Bedard

Non-voting Members: ?

Guests: Arielle Mizrahi (Campus Organizer)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Casey Lambert

I. Introductions

II. Campaign Updates

- a. Textbooks—Vasilika Pappas
  - i. There will be a Halloween-themed table and a movie showing from 2:30 – 4 PM on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October.
  - 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. 211 petitions were gathered at the table last week.
  - ii. There will be a table for photo petitions this week from 6 – 9 PM
  - iii. Next week is a call-in week to Dunkin; the goal is to get as many people as possible to call in.
- c. Bees—Casey Lambert
  - i. A goal is to get environmentally friendly stickers for the campaign
  - ii. There is also work being done on a Halloween-themed Zom-Bee table
  - iii. There will be a vote on a bee costume for the campaign visibility.
  - iv. The fundraiser from last week earned \$66!
- d. 100% Renewable Energy—Chad
  - i. 300 petitions from last table; 1700 petitions collected thus far
  - ii. There are three tables this upcoming week, Northwest 4 – 9 Tuesday, 4 – 7 at Putnam on Wednesday, 4 – 9 at McMahan on Thursday (?)
- e. Democracy campaign—Matt Byanyima
  - i. An important week for raising awareness and showing chapter commitment to chapter campaign finance program (a small donor incentive program).
  - ii. The last table was a huge success!
  - iii. H&H is entering a more advanced stage of planning for the panel following thanksgiving; Prof. Simien (?) and Singer will be bringing their expertise to the table.
  - iv. An article was published last week in the Daily Campus about the Secretary of State audits; students will be able to give reflections on the importance of audits.
- f. Hunger and Homelessness—Casey Saxton
  - i. Had a table last week, overall successful but could use more volunteers

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- ii. There will be a series of tables the week before Thanksgiving with each day having a specific theme including Syrian Refugees, and Fill-A-Car.
  - iii. There will also be sober driving this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday towards hurricane relief efforts.
  - iv. Ask for a cap of \$200 to reimburse drivers
- III. Business: Conducted by Chair Casey Lambert
- a. Bee Costume
  - b. Andrew Frosti motions to allocate \$45 for a bee costume
    - i. Justin seconds.
    - ii. Motion passes.
  - c. Casey Saxton motions to allocate a cap of \$200 to reimburse sober riders for hurricane relief. The rate is 54 cents for mile driven.
    - i. Amendment to \$400 maximum cap due to rates.
    - ii. Casey L. seconds the motion.
    - iii. Motion passes.
  - d. Budget
    - i. Alex has submitted the operating budget for the current fiscal year. The budgets for the next two years are also due; there is an optional session for member input about the budget will be held after next week's core meeting (10/23) in the office.
- IV. By-Laws Discussion
- a. Casey Lambert: We should have a discussion on how members should conduct themselves; seeks input on how the group thinks members should conduct themselves.
  - b. Justin Kaiser: The by-laws should be broad because we don't want people to find loopholes; definitely sees the benefit of specific notes such as going against the mission statement of this organization that [would be a situation for a specific rule].
  - c. Casey: this isn't to create an ideology, it is just to separate the organization from bad behavior
  - d. Noah: would this only affect members in PIRG or those that slander PIRG or claim to be part of the organization [falsely]?
  - e. Casey: We would go through formal steps to ensure that this individual was no longer considered to be a part of PIRG; everyone is a member if they say they are and we would be able to formally distance ourselves from this person and say that they do not represent us. It is a safety net – many tier III's have this safety net.
  - f. Antonio: Would this apply to specific members/cases?
  - g. Casey: we are trying to establish standards, and we would want to ask all people to follow them.
  - h. Vincent: We should ask people to sign a document stating that they have read this otherwise they could plead ignorance.
  - i. Casey: I don't think that this is necessary just because it is public information.
  - j. Justin: agrees
  - k. Matt: Would this be a part of the student code of conduct?
  - l. Aaron: better to be explicit

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- m. Kelly: We should also protect the privacy of the PIRG database; students should not be able to share student information.
  - n. Matt: perhaps stating as unethical representation?
  - o. Casey: I believe this is more about the sharing of student information
  - p. Kelly: agrees
  - q. Matt:
  - r. Bob: We need to be careful. We should allow future members to remain critical of the organization without the threat of punishment.
  - s. Casey: agrees, but are we agreed on the student code of conduct and protecting student information.
  - t. Bob: yes
  - u. Kelly: Students should be allowed to mount valid criticism as long as they don't compromise other students.
  - v. Casey: agrees
  - w. Matt: The student code of conduct allows for a lot of these provisions; we should encourage all members to read the handbook as well. We should insert this into the by-laws.
  - x. Casey: agrees, in particular reference to voter registration: we should add that a student adding any other student to vote should operate under these guidelines. We should emphasize that there is a voter registration training and that we are non-partisan when registering people to vote.
  - y. Antonio: question – I know you said other organizations have these types of protections have you looked at any of these?
  - z. Casey: yes, WHUS especially has a lot rules as they are run more along a business model; the E-board will definitely take into account this discussion
- V. Arielle and Casey discuss campaign selection.
- a. Casey: The great thing about PIRG is that you get to work on what you're passionate about; we will likely have an official vote after Thanksgiving but we can think about it now.
  - b. Arielle: will also be included in intern class.
  - c. Casey: briefly to talk about WHUS—(reads from by-laws)

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM

Minutes submitted by Kelly Flanagan