

UConnPIRG Core Meeting Minutes 18-12  
Monday November 13, 2017, 7 PM  
SU 325

Voting Members: Casey Lambert (Chair), Walter Dodson (Vice Chair), Emily O'Hara (Secretary), Kharl Reynado, Justin Kaiser, Michael Katz, Aaron Golab, Sam Donahue, Andrew Frosti, Matt Talley, Emmett O'Donnell, Nate Aroian, Tori Zane, Isabel Umland, Kyleigh Hillerud, Dylan DeMoura, Chad Schroeder, Ian Beattie, Noah O'Connor, Arya Sayadi, Sinchon Sharma

Non-voting Members: N/A

Guests: Sasha Richardson (Advisor)

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Chair Casey Lambert

- I. Introductions
- II. Campaign Updates
  - a. 100% Renewable Energy—Walter Dodson
    - i. Film screening last Wednesday of *An Inconvenient Sequel* turned out 75 attendees. The film looked at the politics of climate change and renewable energy. Informed the future of the 100% campaign. Shifting more towards recapping and debriefing the campaign over the next few weeks. Will be data basing, having petitioning tables (4-7 in South on Tuesday, 4-10 in McMahan on Wednesday)
  - b. Save the Bees—Emily O'Hara
    - i. Panel Discussion happening this Thursday at 7 PM in SU Theater
  - c. Styrofoam—Justin Kaiser
    - i. 196 petitions collected last week
    - ii. Sending volunteers to work at H&H Week tables
  - d. Textbooks—Kharl Reynado
    - i. Asking more professors to sign on to Open Access/agree to Open Access
  - e. Democracy—Noah O'Connor
    - i. Over 120 petitions collected at a democracy table
    - ii. Wednesday in South Dining Hall from 12-3 PM collecting petitions
  - f. Hunger and Homelessness—Casey Lambert
    - i. H&H Awareness Week is this week
    - ii. Volunteers are needed for events on Wednesday
    - iii. Thursday in SU 214: Film screening for H&H Awareness Week from 4:30 PM to 6 PM
- III. Business—Casey Lambert
  - a. Vote to approve the budget for FY18 and also projections for FY19 and FY20. Notable increases are in Travel, Operations, and the office budget. Please see the PIRG website for more information
    - i. Casey motions to approve the FY18 budget, as well as projections for FY19 and FY20.
      1. Seconded by Walter Dodson
      2. Passes unanimously
- IV. Discussion on Campaign Selection—Casey Lambert

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- a. The present statewide lead campaign is 100% Renewable Energy. The other campaigns being run are Save the Bees, Textbooks, Stop Styrofoam, Democracy, and Hunger and Homelessness.
- b. Justin Kaiser: The Styrofoam is looking at becoming a Zero Waste campaign. Styrofoam is still a serious issue. This new campaign will bring in a lot of new people who may be more interested in different forms of waste reduction.
- c. Chad Schroeder: 100% Renewable Energy is not going to be run by Walter in the spring, it will be run by Chad Schroeder. Next semester the campaign will be less focused on petitions, and more on building relationships with faculty, looking into ways of using different tactics. Looking to expand different renewable options on campus without going directly for a goal of 100% Renewable Energy, in order to achieve tangible goals. Also hoping to educate the UConn community with facts without presenting them in an overly complicated way
- d. Students list off the issues they care about, regardless of PIRG's stance or the alignment of the issue with PIRG mission statement
  - i. A lot of the issues are connected to each other, which means we have the potential to work on what we care about in different ways
  - ii. Agricultural campaigns should be considered because we are an agricultural school. For example, issues such as tackling a pesticide giant can be handled through an industrial agriculture campaign.
    1. Problems with running a campaign against a pesticide giant: Special interest groups, local relevance, issue-framing (positive versus negative), capacity for making change
- e. Changes/things people want to see in the future:
  - i. Chad Schroeder: Intercampaign relations improved
  - ii. Dylan DeMoura: Bonding activities
  - iii. Matt Talley: There's potential to a net neutrality campaign (has general support of the room)
  - iv. Arya: Target corruptions/corporations
- f. Timeline
  - i. Activist class this week is about campaign selection
  - ii. State timeline:
    1. Sunday 11/12: Confirm who will write the statewide proposals (eg, Board Chair)
    2. Week ending 11/24: Thanksgiving (students write proposals over break)
    3. Saturday 11/25: Proposals for statewide campaign and any new campaign due
    4. Sunday 11/26: Board call-discuss campaign proposals
      - a. Brief and debrief
    5. Week ending 12/1: Students vote on recommendation for lead campaign
    6. Sunday 12/3: Board meeting (vote for lead campaign)
    7. Week 12/8: Vote on chapter campaigns

V. Announcements

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- a. Last Core (12/8) will be a voluntary Secret Santa
- b. There is the potential to write an amendment to the constitution/by-laws to make PIRG elections Ranked Choice by the next special election that needs to happen

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM by Chair Casey Lambert

Minutes submitted by Emily O'Hara