

UConnPIRG Core Meeting Minutes 18-11
Monday November 6, 2017, 7 PM
SU 325

Voting Members: Casey Lambert (Chapter Chair), Walter Dodson (Vice Chair), Alex Pawlak (Treasurer), Emily O'Hara (Secretary), Kharl Reynado, Justin Kaiser, Ian Beattie, Cassandra Saxton, Vincent Cajigas, Antonio Cajigas, Noah O'Connor, Kyleigh Hillerud, Dylan DeMoura, Nate Aroian, Matt Talley, Isabel Umland, Abigail Joseph, Asher Freedman, Emmett O'Donnell, Michael Katz, Sam Donahue, Bob Hannan, Aaron Golab

Non-voting Members:

Guests: Arielle Mizrahi (Campus Organizer), Sasha Richardson (Advisor)

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Chair Casey Lambert

- I. Introductions
- II. Campaign Updates
 - a. Hunger and Homelessness—Casey Saxton
 - i. Hunger and homelessness week: Next week.
 1. First event is a Syrian refugee table on Monday on Fairfield Way. The second event is a fill-a-van with supplies/canned foods. Wednesday is a table on discrimination in poverty, which is a collaboration with the Rainbow Center. A movie screening and art gallery will be held on Thursday. Friday focuses on the water crisis in Flint, MI, and how these issues can be prevented.
 2. Table: Wednesday in McMahan Dining Hall. Wednesday in South Dining Hall. Thursday in South Dining Hall.
 3. Volunteers needed for H&H week!
 - b. Stop Styrofoam—Justin Kaiser
 - i. Last week: Call-in/social media week to reach out to Dunkin Donuts. Lines were closed sporadically, so the week was shifted to primarily a social media event.
 - ii. This week: Petition table on Thursday. TBD.
 - c. Textbooks—Kharl Reynado
 - i. Working on textbook report
 - d. Save the Bees—Emily O'Hara
 - i. Service-learning last Friday
 - ii. BFFA blitz for the next week
 - iii. Last week: 100 interest cards collected at a table at McMahan
 - iv. This Week:
 1. Table to collect interest cards for our Pollinator Protection Panel on November 7th from 6-9 PM at Whitney Dining Hall
 2. Table to collect interest cards for our Pollinator Protection Panel on November 8th from 6-9 PM at Northwest Dining Hall
 - e. Democracy—Casey Lambert
 - i. Municipal elections are tomorrow! Encourage students to vote
 1. NVP was one of our most popular campaigns and got the groundwork for students to vote
 2. Opportunities: Flyering, 2-4 PM tomorrow
 3. Collected 105 petitions last week in favor of ranked choice voting

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- f. 100% Renewable Energy—Walter Dodson
 - i. Film screening on Wednesday from 7-10 PM in CHEM A203
 - ii. Phonebanking tonight from 8-9 PM, tomorrow from 6-9 PM
 - iii. Tables: Tomorrow to hand out flyers
- III. Business
- a. Save the Bees Orders—Emily O’Hara
 - i. Emily proposes raising the original purchasing amount for “Save the Bees” stickers to \$160, as the potential for cost fluctuations and tax were not factored in to the original voted-upon amount.
 - 1. Walter motions raising the purchasing amount on the sticker order to \$160 to cover tax as well as any fluctuations in shipping costs
 - a. Seconded by Emmett O’Donnell
 - b. Emily O’Hara recuses herself
 - c. Passes unanimously
 - ii. In order to use the Student Union Theatre for the Pollinator Protection Panel on November 16th at 7 PM, an AV Technician is required to use microphones and any visual/audio aids.
 - 1. Walter motions to pay \$50.00 for the Student Union Enhanced Audio/Visual Technician for 2 hours for the Pollinator Protection Panel on November 16th at 7 PM
 - a. Bob Hannan seconds the motion
 - b. Emily O’Hara recuses herself
 - c. The vote passes unanimously
 - iii. Emily proposes purchasing honey stick samples to be handed out at the Pollinator Protection Panel on November 16th at 7 PM. These honey sticks will be an incentive for students to attend, a giveaway, and an emphasis on the immediate benefit of protecting bees.
 - 1. Casey motions purchasing honey stick samples for no more than \$50 to hand out at the Pollinator Protection Panel, as well as subsequent tables as a giveaway for students attending the event.
 - a. Walter seconds the motion
 - b. Emily O’Hara recuses herself
 - c. The vote passes unanimously
 - b. Toner—Casey Lambert
 - i. Toner is needed for the printer because a lot of color printing has been happening for posters and buttons.
 - 1. Casey motions that we purchase 4 cartridges at \$80 each for a total of \$320
 - 2. Justin Kaiser seconds
 - 3. Passes unanimously
 - c. Reimbursement for travel—Casey Lambert
 - i. Cameron Fischer drove Walter Dodson and Emily O’Hara to and from Bradley International Airport to get to the AASHE conference.
 - ii. Casey motions to reimburse Cam for 73.6 miles of travel to and from Bradley Airport.

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1. Seconded by Justin Kaiser
 2. Emily O'Hara and Walter Dodson recuse themselves
 3. The vote passes unanimously
- d. Hunger and Homelessness—Casey Saxton proposes a \$120 on purchasing candy to hand out at the tables throughout the week in order to promote Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.
- i. Ian Beattie motions to purchase candy for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week for no more than \$120.
 1. Seconded by Walter Dodson
 2. Casey Saxton recuses herself.
 3. The vote passes unanimously
- IV. Campaign Selection Criteria Discussion—Justin Kaiser and Kharl Reynado
- a. Two main goals: What issues we want to handle and what we want them to be. We want to change the world for the better. We want students to want to gain skills that they can use in the future. We fight for the public interest, but we don't have the funding of special interests. We build campaigns that fit within a mold that rallies the public to action within our mission.
 - i. We fight for the broad public, as well as the student population. The issues we fight on are selected because they're agreed upon by approximately 80% of the public. People have to want to fund the campaigns (campaigns have to be fundable). We also ask if people want to act on the issue. Is the campaign easy to get involved in, is it easy to grow as a leader? Once involved, students should want to continue with the organization because they are compelled to organize by the campaign, as well as the organization.
 - ii. Some issues are compelling, but they're not in the public interest, which means we typically do not work on them as campaigns.
 1. We want to build our brand, and have our campaigns associated with our organization (ex: 100% Renewable, NVP). We want students to have a positive association with us, be it through the students, structures, or institutions.
 2. We are on a quest for a signature issue to be known by, which is evident from our environmental/voter mobilization movements
 - b. Some campaigns don't recruit as well as others, based on a variety of factors/tensions. The issue might not be hot enough, or might not be as profound as people want it to be. The chapter leadership also tends to be politicized, so the student interests have to be considered first and foremost. The most important factor is engaging students for the long-term in a diverse set of campaigns.
 - c. 10 Campaign Criteria:
 - i. Is it within PIRG's mission?
 1. Standing up to powerful special interests
 2. 80% of people would agree
 3. Students on the specific campus will agree
 - ii. Does PIRG have a history on the issue?

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1. We are thinking about what we've done in the past to evaluate where we fit in the narrative
 - iii. Is the issue or the problem profound? Is it a big deal, a big problem?
 1. How profound is the issue, and why do we want to work on it?
 2. Is it the biggest issue we can tangibly tackle?
 - iv. Can WE make a difference?
 1. PIRG/students → A chapter of 35 college students
 2. Are other organizations/individuals already handling the issue as their primary focus with a significant movement?
 - v. Will we be able to recruit a lot of people?
 1. Issues need to compel people to want to get involved
 - vi. Can we raise money to run the program?
 1. We're fee funded. Do students want to keep us?
 - vii. Does it position us to be able to take on more—does it improve our access to power players, our influence with them?
 1. Partnering with people on campus but also having more power in numbers
 2. We need to take into account what our key power players are interested in as well
 - viii. Are there a variety of tactics—can lots of different people play a role?
 1. What kind of tactics can we use? Different campaigns need different numbers of people with varying skill sets
 - ix. Is it hot?
 1. What are the hot issues? Are people talking about it? Is it big on campus? Are people going to recognize this issue as something prevalent in the present?
 - x. Is it locally relevant?
 1. We're fighting for the students on this campus, and people want to fix the issues on their campuses
- d. Discussion—Kharl Reynado
- i. Timeline: Today, discussing criteria. Next core, discussing what we want the lead campaign to be. The discussions are going to inform the recommendation that is going to go to the state board to vote on. Campaign suggestions will be proposed at the core before being taken up to the state level.
 1. Campaign proposals are due during Thanksgiving vacation. At minimum, they need to be in before the core when we get in. Everyone should review the suggestions being made in order to have a clear focus.
 2. Second-to-last core: Pick campaigns being run at the chapter level, recommend statewide lead campaign to the board
 3. State board meeting: December 3rd. Core meeting: December 4th. Final core.
 - ii. Discussion—Matt Talley

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1. Believes we should take a stance on a political issue without taking a stance on a political party. Climate change polls are not supported by 80% of the public
 2. When talking about issues dealing with the administration, I think trying to divest from private prisons, for example, puts us at odds with the administration
 3. Bob Hannan: Disagrees with PIRG's mission.
- iii. Vote on top 3 criteria
1. Profundity
 2. Recruitment
 3. Can we make a difference/local relevance tied

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM by Casey Lambert

Minutes submitted by Emily O'Hara