

UConnPIRG Core Meeting Minutes 18-18  
Monday February 12th, 2018, 7 PM  
SU 325

Voting Members - Casey Lambert (Chair), Walter Dodson (Vice Chair), Kyleigh Hillerud (Secretary), Alex Pawlak (Treasurer), Kharl Reynado, Chadwick Schroeder, Jessica Gagnon, Tori Zane, Michelle Wakim, Kim Pizzella, Bailey Bobzien, Michael Katz, Isabel Umland, Richard Monray, Dylan DeMaura, Sam Donahue, Abigail LeFontan, Justin Kaiser, Aaron Golab, Noah O'Connor, Zachary Corolla, Ian Beattie, Charles Frazine, Vincent Cajigas, Antonio Cajigas, Christopher Kaczegowicz, Faisal Rajan, Andrew Frosti, Abhishek Gupta, Casey Saxton, Samuel Bedard, Kelly Rafferty, Emma Robinson, Danielle Hartshorn, Sinchan Sharma, Madison Platau, Emmett O'Donnell, Daniel Duque, Gabrielle Latome, Matt Talley.

Non-Voting members - Esther Santiago, Kamal Watt, Dennis Pilpento, Gustavo Sazo.

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

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Walter Dodson at 7:01 pm

1. Intros
2. Campaign Updates
  - a. Zero Waste - Justin Kaiser
    - i. Had research session last week.
    - ii. Went to SWAC committee meeting- very productive talked about plastic bags and town policies. SWAC is the Solid Waste Advisory Committee of Mansfield.
    - iii. Last week Dunkin committed to stopping the use of styrofoam cups by the year 2020. We worked on that campaign last semester we didn't directly make them make that commitment but we believe we helped the effort. Justin gave a comment to daily campus today about Dunkin committing to phasing out styrofoam.
  - b. Democracy - Noah O'Connor
    - i. At table last week they got 100 petitions, this week 2-3 tables.
    - ii. Put in the daily campus a letter to the editor about ranked choice voting.
  - c. H&H - Casey Saxton
    - i. At table last week got \$120.80 for the no freeze shelter.
    - ii. Had campaign meeting on sunday were they went over retreat.
    - iii. Working on a talent show for charity.

- iv. Looking into local business coalitions to help sponsor the sleepout and the poverty simulator.
  - d. 100% - Chadwick Schroeder
    - i. Last week started research on university senate.
    - ii. This week we are having opposing offshore drilling tables to coincide with a sierra club offshore drilling protest in Hartford.
    - iii. Got 64 photo petitions at table last week.
    - iv. Next week we are going to be doing flyering blitz for rally
  - e. NVP/Textbooks - Kharl Reynado
    - i. Talking to university senate about voting instutualization
    - ii. Open educational resource week is March 5th-9th
    - iii. Tabling next week
  - f. Bees - Sam Donahue
    - i. First campaign meeting last week.
    - ii. Had a prop making session ,
    - iii. Met with landscaping about bee friendly garden
  - g. ABX - Tori Zane
    - i. Two student group endorsements - mock trial & partners in health
    - ii. This week doing research in healthcare officials.
- 3. Retreat
  - a. Kharl Reynado
    - i. Went to regional retreat with masspirg/connpirg in milton Ma over the weekend where we talked about different tactics with different levels in the chapter.
  - b. Open Discussion -
    - i. Jessica Gagnon - Excited to help plan the 100% teach in; countrywide application of education about climate change and renewable energy that can be applied to all majors. Good to know about UConn funding and that situation.
    - ii. Kyleigh Hillerud - Good to be in talks of rebranding and talk about who we are and what we represent. Liked how a day was spent on storytelling.
    - iii. Casey Saxton - Good breakout sessions talking about in certain cities it's illegal to share food, illegal to have personal items in public ex. sleeping bag/tent. Police came and people living in parks personal items. Brought to light these issues.
    - iv. Isabel Umland - ABX national HERO campaign with mcdonald's learn more about those strategies.
- 4. Rebranding - The Vice Chair is relieved of the responsibility of conducting meeting as Chair Casey Lambert is now present (7:23 PM)

- a. Kharl Reynado
  - i. At the retreat, they released the name that is most likely going to be our name which is - Engage. So we would be Engage Connecticut/ Engage UConn. Students have been fighting for over 45 years, PIRG (Public Interest Research Group) was what we did back when organization was first found; but now we don't do much research anymore it's not who we are. There will be a soft launch this semester where we will tell our VIPs and coalition partners about the name change. Hard launch next semester where we will completely change everything, name of our fee is going to change, and so on. For a while we are going to have to say " We are engage CT formerly known as PIRG". Everyone knows the name PIRG. The student pirgs need to differentiate themselves from the citizens pirg. We are not rolling out official name yet, we are easing into this. We can talk about messaging but we are still the same just changed name. The name is supposed to emphasize what we do know and it does we get people engaged.
- b. Open Discussion
  - i. Abhishek Gupta- It's a good way to re-introduce ourselves to students. , have a stage to say hey this is what we actually do
  - ii. Casey Saxton- Large amount of students felt disappointed in their break out, 'engage" didn't accomplish all of what we do, propose a different name, CORE - congress of blank engagement, mostly sounds like we are environmental groups with the name engage.
  - iii. Noah O'Connor - Believes that acronyms are better
  - iv. Justin Kaiser - Why explain something twice but explain it once, we would have to explain to them what we are no matter what but at least with the name they have a general idea.
  - v. Kharl Reynado - People dont think its standing for our values, a lot of people agreed on name change that is does not represent us, Kyleigh Hillerud & Walter Dodson are going to be taking all comments on our chapters thoughts to the National Student Forum.
  - vi. Zach Corolla - Believes it's a good way to introduce yourself to the campus and student body.
  - vii. Chadwick Schroeder - Name is not as unique.
  - viii. Antonio Cajigas - Didn't like it being a verb, also take in thought the legality of certain names.
  - ix. Ian Beattie - The name PIRG is ridiculous, you have to explain it. WE should have a name that we don't have to explain as much.

- x. Walter Dodson - what we do is engage students, students are engaged when we are class rapping, at tablings, at teach in we are engaging students. We are engaging them to make a change, it plays with our mission to engage them. It is not as grabbing, but acronyms are bad.
- xi. Matt Talley- It is vague, yes we are engaging people but to what end - what is the mission specifying that mission.
- xii. Dylan DeMaura- Ambiguous, sounds like getting ex convicts getting people back to work.
- xiii. Abhishek Gupta - 'Engage' has its flaws but it comes from our mission
- xiv. Noah O'connor - change the name to CORE - Community Outreach Representation Engagement.
- xv. Zach Corolla - Good idea changing name, it speaks to what is new, and speaks to nature of PIRG the work that we are doing isn't the same what we were 40 years ago. PIRG is always evolving so our name should represent that.
- xvi. Andrew Frosti - We have all been there when explain what PIRG stands for, but don't thinks its solved with 'Engaged'.
- xvii. Walter Dodson - people around gonna know what we associate ourselves with - engagement. No matter what we are gonna have to explain what and who we are.
- xviii. Chadwick Schroeder - Liked Noah's idea.
- xix. Danielle Hartshorn - Name should be easy for people to stand behind long term.
- xx. Gustavo Sazo- believes 'CORE' is strong.
- xxi. Walter Dodson - Have to think about this is a national movement to change our name. There has been lots of work building into this. We are apart of national movement more difficult name change wise.
- xxii. Abhishek Gupta - There might be legal issues with the name 'CORE'.
- xxiii. Emma Robinson-No matter what we still are the same organization.
- xxiv. Kharl - Walter & Kyleigh are bringing all these notes to NSF for more discussions on a national level.

## 5. Business

- a. Casey Lambert - allocating funds for bus to bring uconn students to rally we feel it shouldn't be on the students to transport themselves - \$700
  - i. Discussion
    - 1. Walter Dodson - super important that we get transportation for people who can't afford it
    - 2. Jessica Gagnon - been contacting lots of interests on campus.

3. Danielle Hartshorn - if need more transportation chapter members can drive.
4. Aaron - Upass?
  - a. Kyleigh Hillerud - Want a logistical option if students don't have upass - students need transpo - community outreach don't have enough people
  - ii. Casey Lambert motions to allocate \$700 for transportation for UConn students to rally.
    1. Walter Dodson seconds
    2. Passed unanimously
  - b. Casey Lambert - Reimbursed \$5 for supplies needed for Save the Bees Valentines Day table.
    - i. Alex Pawlak motions to reimburse Casey Lambert \$5
    - ii. Justin Kaiser seconds
    - iii. Casey Lambert accuses herself
    - iv. Motion Passes
  - c. Chad Schroeder - needs paint for a table where we are going to paint a globe for an interactive table.
    - i. Chad motions \$20 for paint supplies
    - ii. Justin Kaiser seconds
    - iii. Chad accuses himself
    - iv. Motion passes

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm by Chapter Chair Casey Lambert

Minutes submitted by Kyleigh Hillerud