UConnPIRG Core Meeting Minutes 18-24
Monday April 9th, 2018, 7 PM
SU 325

Voting members: Alex Pawlak (Treasurer), Kyleigh Hillerud (Secretary), Kharl Reynado, Justin Kaiser, Gustavo Sazo, Michael Katz, Kelly Rafferty, Kim Pizzella, Michelle Wakim, Jessica Gagnon, Chadwick Schroeder, Andrew Frosti, Samuel Donahue, Tori Zane, Ian Beattie, Isabel Umland, Cassandra Saxton, Dylan Demoura, Abigail LaFonta, Cathy Yan, Antonio Cajigas, Vincent Cajigas, Noah O’Connor, Aaron Golab, Abhishek Gupta, Gabby LaTorre, Richard Monroy, Emmett O’Donnell

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

Chapter Chair Casey Lambert recognizes Kharl Reynado as chair, Meeting is brought to order at 7:04 pm by Kharl Reynado.

I. Intros
II. Campaign proposals
   A. Kharl Reynado
      1. Read each proposal in order on the google doc and then if there any questions they can be taken and then we will vote.
      2. Lead campaign which is looking like nvp takes a lot of the resources, doesn’t mean our new campus organizer won't have attention just reduced attention to others because nvp takes a lot of resources so we want to reduce amount of campaigns.
   B. Chadwick Schroeder proxy for Parth Patel - 100% Project
      1. 100% campaign as a close knit group will be better. Next semesters mission is to spread awareness, networking of contacts, and lobbying special interests. Continue to reach out to administration, reach out to professionals, making a actual plan with environmental engineer ,meet with town council see if more renewable energy can be used in town, lobby university senate to see if resolutions could get past.
   C. Isabel Umland – Zero Waste Campaign
      1. Would like to build a community at UConn that we don’t have about recycling and reducing, and wants to enact local change can have legislation change work with Mansfield. Wants to reduce waste by 25% by 2025, would enact this by providing reusable bags, bottles mugs while raising awareness about waste reduction.
D. Gabby LaTorre - Bees Campaign
1. Continuing with the service learning presentations, planting the bee garden and making Mansfield a bee friendly city. Gather a lot more new volunteers that what we have now.

E. Tori Zane – Farm Bill Project
1. Every five years or so, Congress passes a Farm Bill, it decides how much money is allocated to certain programs and dictates what farmers have to do in order to make a profit. A problem with modern agricultural programs is that farmers are forced to over-produce a single crop on overworked land. This is called monoculture, and it strips nutrients away from the land and creates erosion. In 2014, Congress reduced the amount of land that farmers could be paid for within this program, forcing farmers to continue their harmful practice of monoculture in order to compete in the industry. Most of the subsidies in the past farm bills went to farms with large animal feeding populations, encouraging farmers to run factory farms where animals are routinely given antibiotics and other unsustainable practices. Senator Cory Booker proposed the EQIP Improvement Act for the 2018 Farm Bill. This act would re-allocate money to farms who use sustainable practices like crop rotation and fix some of the problems in past farm bills. Students need to show Congressional Representatives and Senators who will be reviewing this bill in May that they support the EQIP Improvement Act to the 2018 Farm Bill and increased funds for conservation. Showing elected officials that is not just farmers who care about the intricacies of the Farm Bill and conservation, this is a bill that affects our environment and public health and students are invested in it.

F. Kharl Reynado Textbooks Project
1. Two interns from past semester Erin and Deevena are going to be heading this project, continuing work from this semester like department presentations about OER and survey reports.

G. Abhishek Gupta - H&H
1. Trying to bring focus back to Windham and locally next semester and how poverty is affecting us locally. Research project into food insecurity on campus, researching about food pantry on campus.

H. New Voters Project
1. Michelle Wakim - going to be our lead campaign in the fall. Theme of ‘I am a ____, I am a voter”. Today people identify with certain groups, but we are all voters. Having large events working up to November 6th where we are having a party to the polls. Going to be asking businesses to donate food, having shuttle for people to the polls. Exercise your right to vote event, teach in.

2. Kharl – Creating a promotional video ‘I am a ____, I am a voter’ with big state individuals, student leaders, department heads, and people who are important. Jessica will be leading targeting professors on events in classroom about importance of voting.
   a) Casey Saxton - Are you working with EO Smith seniors or high schoolers in general?
   b) Kharl – Wasn't in original plan but we could have it but it might be too much, but it is definitely a good thought.

I. Kharl - motions to run 100%, farm bill, and textbooks as projects, and Zero waste, Bees, NVP, and H&H as campaigns for Fall 2018.
   1. Justin Kaiser seconds
   2. Motion passes unanimously.

III. Announcements
   A. Justin Kaiser - Having our zero waste film screening on Wednesday with a panel discussion afterwards.
   B. Abhishek Gupta - Big events for H&H. Poverty simulation two spots on Wednesday. Having Charity showcase to raise awareness about hunger and homelessness to raise money for no freeze shelter. After that having a cardboard sleep out in the student union theatre.
   C. Chadwick Schroeder - Last weeks of the semester we are doing voices for 100%, large social media blitz, why we should fight for 100% renewable energy contact Jessica Gagnon with that response.
   D. Dylan DeMoura - USG sustainability committee is having a gender and climate justice art exhibit so look out for that.
   E. Abigail LaFonta - landscaping got back to us and we have a spot for a bee friendly garden.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm by Kharl Reynado.
Minutes submitted by Kyleigh Hillerud