

UConnPIRG Core Meeting Minutes 19-04  
Monday September 17th, 2018, 7 PM  
SU 325

Voting Members: Walter Dodson (Chair), Emily O'Hara (Vice-Chair), Sam Donahue (Treasurer), Kyleigh Hillerud (Secretary), Kharl Reynado, Abigail Joseph, Lizzy Turano, Chad Schroeder, Andrew Frosti, Justin Kaiser, Abhishek Gupta, Dayna Robinson, Vincent Cajigas, Antonio Cajigas, Gabby Latorre, Jessica Gagnon

Non-Voting Members: Emily Illosky, James Saturno, Kenneth Klarer, Kasra Parchelcani, Carla Cedeno, Madison Britting, Sam Pietrzyk, Ireluwa Opayemi, Zachary Lepore, Lauren King, Jey Herman, Rebecca Sheehan, Daylene Decrisanti, Gayatri Vishwanath, Keely Greiner

Guests: Alex Peebles (Campus Organizer)

Meeting brought to order by Chapter Chair Walter Dodson at 7pm

- I. Ice breaker/ Intros
- II. National Update
  - A. Kaitlyn Vietz - Textbook advocate
    1. Higher ed campaign director for the 2nd year, previous new brunswick campus organizer
    2. Federal Update
      - a) Spring we were able to get open educational pilot after over a decade of students advocating for it.
      - b) We haven't had cosponsors trying to find where we can sneak it in the the national budget, and had the opportunity to make the program pilot
      - c) Spring 2018, a bunch of students went down to DC to lobby elected officials advocating for the program, like Walter went in with other top students to Senator Blunt's office, who is chair of the committee who writes the budget in congress, if that we could get students talking about it and urging their elected officials to write it in the budget.
      - d) Over a 2-3 weeks period we were able to get 60 student governments to sign on as well as libraries, urging congress to put money in open educational resources. We mobilized students to call their elected officials. Through that we were able to convince congress to write in 5 million dollar grant for the 2018 federal budget.
      - e) When Secretary DeVos went in implementing what the allocated money went towards they wanted to use it for other stuff, We had

to have our champions like Senator Durbin stand up for us, and make sure that money went to open educational resources.

f) We want to renew the program to get changes in language put in place for next year's budget, house is out of session at the moment, but we are expecting the next couple days the senate is voting on it.

g) Questions

(1) How did you get started doing this - Keely Greiner

(a) Kaitlyn - Went to UVM ran food pantries, wanted to make systemic change, found a job with PIRG, became a campus organizer, then became of the higher education advocate.

### III. NSF Update

A. Walter Dodson - Top two students from each state where we have chapters meet and discuss the national student movement.

B. Kharl Reynado

1. Went to Denver, talked to a bunch of other students people from different states. We talked to about rebranding, strengths and weaknesses, campus relations.
2. We've talked about rebranding for a long time, for about 4 years. After this 4 year discussion we decided we didn't want to change our name, that conversation would shift on how we brand and market ourselves. This is going to be an ongoing conversation.
3. Another thing we talked to, was weaknesses coming from each state what we don't share and don't share.

C. Walter - Best thing took away was a major tactic of campaign and chapter is viz. Viz is the wrong word it's more communications. We want to reevaluate the message we are portraying.

IV. Walter Dodson leaves meeting at 7:42 pm, Emily O'Hara takes chair at 7:42pm

V. Retreat

A. Emily O'Hara

1. PIRG retreats are a great way to learn skills, tactics, and get advice from other students.
2. The weekend of the 29th-30th we are going to be holding our annual regional retreat at UConn. Students from MA, NJ, and CT coming
3. We do trainings and grassroots training, it's a great experience. All students are welcome.

VI. Kick-off

A. Kyleigh Hillerud

1. Crushed our 120 goal by getting 175 people in the room.
2. Had great speakers like Ama Appiah, Greg Haddad, Mae Flexer, Denise Merrill

VII. Business

A. Emily O'Hara

1. Having our National Voter Registration Day event in the SU theatre we are having a conversation on Humility and conviction, we approved 50\$ for this event last core but we need to amend for more for the price of the event coordinator and the A/V person the union provides us.
2. Motion a maximum of 75 dollars for the payment of the event planner and A/V person for our NVRD Event.
  - a) Justin Kaiser Seconds
  - b) Motion passes

VIII. Announcements

- A. Kharl Reynado - Uconn Storrs has a open board seat on the State Board that needs to be filled, we will be talking about this position next week, and having elections the following.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:55pm.

Minutes submitted by Kyleigh Hillerud