

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 20-05
Monday September 16th, 2019, 7 PM
SU 310

Voting Members: Emily O'Hara (Chair), Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair), Samuel Donahue (Treasurer), Michael Katz (Secretary), Kyleigh Hillerud, Rachel Cormier, Walter Dodson, Victor Htut, Colleen Keller, Dylan DeMoura, Katie Butwill, Andrew Mayano, Sean Oppenheimer, Chad Schroeder, Leah LePage, Kasra Parchekani, Elizabeth Turano, Venkata Patchigolla

Non-Voting members: Zaryah Gordon, Cheyenne Tavares, Jess Power, Michael Grover, Yuzhai Chen, Audrey Soltis, Amanda Cicchetti, Salaah "Dean" Kanaav, Peyton Marie DeLorenzo Pease, Wellbe Thermidor, Yan Lam, Julia Ward, Ben Albee, Dea Ballij, Brian Garzon, Vinu Pillai, Elena Gould

Guests: Petra Favorite (UConnPIRG campus organizer), Kurt Daigle (UConnPIRG primary advisor)

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:00pm by Emily O'Hara (Chair)
- II. Introductions
- III. Business
 - A. HuskyEngage Phone Wallets - Up to \$700
 1. O'Hara (Chair) reprises her proposal of phone wallets for HuskyEngage student summit attendees to hold business cards and be recognized at the event.
 2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$700 for the creation and purchase of HuskyEngage phone wallets.
 3. Kyleigh Hillerud seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
 - B. Toner
 1. Samuel Donahue (Treasurer) reveals that the printer ran out of toner over the weekend. He proposes buying three containers of toner (\$53.99 each) for the purpose of printing promotional flyers and other necessary materials.
O'Hara (Chair) recuses herself at 7:13 pm; Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair) assumes the role of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.
 2. Donahue (Treasurer) motions to approve up to \$200 for printer toner.
 3. Rachel Cormier seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
 - C. Chalk - Up to \$30
 1. Hillerud expresses a need for more chalk, to be used as a visibility tactic for campaign and chapterwide events.
 2. Donahue (Treasurer) motions to approve up to \$30 for chalk.
 3. Walter Dodson seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
 - D. Donahue's Announcement

1. Donahue (Treasurer) announces that he will be graduating at the end of this semester, and thus UConnPIRG needs a new treasurer for Spring 2020. The organization is opening up inquiries to any interested parties.
- E. Trifolds for campaigns - Up to \$30
1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) reflects that a need for more professional trifolds arose during UConnPIRG's involvement fair table. New Voters Project needs them, and they can be reused for other campaigns.
 2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve up to \$30 for campaign trifolds.
 3. Victor Htut seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
- F. Food for PIRG Student Leadership Retreat
1. Donahue (Treasurer) proposes the purchase of food (e.g. Gansett Wraps) for attendees of this weekend's on-campus student leadership retreat.
 2. Donahue (Treasurer) motions to approve up to \$450 for food for PIRG student leadership retreat.
 3. Dodson seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
- G. Leadership Position Open
1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) outlines this year's executive cabinet: Hillerud as Public Relations/Communications Director, Cormier as Treasurer's Assistant, Elizabeth Turano as Office Manager, and Chad Schroeder as Social Chair. The retention manager is tasked with tracking campaign meeting and event attendance and retaining members. The position will be open for members to submit a letter of intent - discussing their desire and suitability for the role - to the executive board. Michael Katz (Secretary) will send an email to the chapter tonight.
Kurt Daigle (UConnPIRG primary advisor) enters the room at 7:20 pm.
- H. Chapter Endorsement of the Fridays for Future Climate Strike
1. Dodson discusses the university and global climate strike that is taking place this Friday, starting at 9 am and ending in the early afternoon. There will be a rally and march to Gulley Hall - where UConn's president and provost's office are located - as the UConn community comes together via activism.
 2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) presents UConnPIRG's formal written endorsement of the strike.
 3. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve a chapterwide formal endorsement of the Fridays for Future climate strike.
 4. Donahue (Treasurer) seconds.
 5. Motion passes unanimously.
- IV. The UConnPIRG Tripod: Visibility
- A. Hillerud discusses the tripod - visibility, campus relations, and leadership development - in relation to leadership organizations. She outlines her role with UConnPIRG and her other relevant experiences. She juxtaposes the ways in which visibility is usually discussed with the ways in which it should be discussed, and asks for input regarding how other students should - and should not

- view PIRG. She presents the Student PIRGs mission statement and UConnPIRG's values, both of which are critical to aid organizational messaging. *Dodson leaves the room at 7:32 pm, reentering at 7:34 pm.*

B. Hillerud outlines what UConnPIRG wants to be known for and provides her personal tips for effective visibility. She presents a diagram of all the outlets for advertising a brand. She provides her contact information and advises that interested members attend the weekly Communications meetings on Thursdays from 7:30-8:30 pm in the SOC.

C. Breakouts

1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) splits Core up into four groups to discuss visibility's role in promoting UConnPIRG's campaigns.

O'Hara (Chair) reenters the room at 7:38 pm.

V. Recruitment Drive Debrief

A. Colleen Keller remarks upon the great success of this semester's recruitment drive, with returning members recruiting high-quality newcomers. Although only 118 of the intended 150 attended kickoff, the event was still effective in its presentation of well-run campaigns and presence of members who will stay onboard long-term.

B. O'Hara (Chair) gives thanks to Keller for coordinating this semester's recruitment drive, and to Hillerud for tonight's visibility presentation.

VI. Campaign Meeting Times

A. Zero Waste coordinator Hillerud announces that meetings will take place on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 pm in the SOC.

B. Hunger & Homelessness coordinator Keller announces that meetings will take place on Tuesdays at 6 pm in the SOC.

C. NVP coordinator O'Hara (Chair) announces that meetings will tentatively take place on Thursdays at 5 pm in the SOC.

D. Gagnon (Vice Chair) remarks that Save the Bees coordinator Elena Hernandez is still trying to schedule meetings, so interested volunteers should check their emails.

E. O'Hara (Chair) announces that Affordable Textbooks meetings will take place on Thursdays at 7 pm.

F. Venkata Patchigolla remarks that 100% Renewable Energy most likely will meet on Wednesdays at 7 pm, although this is subject to change.

VII. Recruitment Drive Feedback/Miscellaneous

A. O'Hara (Chair) inquires Core to provide recruitment drive feedback.

1. Various students remark upon the effectiveness of phone calls and text messages in their recruitment, alongside UConnPIRG's remarkable efforts to increase freshman involvement in comparison to those of other organizations.

2. O'Hara (Chair) suggests that those who wish to submit anonymous feedback send a message to uconnpirgstudents@gmail.com.

B. Hillerud recaps last Saturday's Zero Waste campus cleanup behind McMahan, where volunteers filled up nine trash bags in approximately forty minutes.

VIII. Sign-Ups

- A. Hillerud announces that there will be a propmaking session tomorrow in the office for Zero Waste's upcoming petition tables. These will take place on Wednesday from 6-9 pm in McMahon and on Thursday from 11 am-2 pm in Northwest. She distributes sign-up sheets.
- B. Cheyenne Tavares announces that NVP is preparing for National Voter Registration Day with a propmaking session tomorrow from 3-6 pm and a poster session on Wednesday from 7-9 pm. On NVRD (September 24), there will be a table from 11 am-5 pm, with a goal of roughly ten volunteers/hour. She distributes sign-up sheets.
- C. Brian Garzon announces that Affordable Textbooks is distributing a survey to students at a table on Fairfield Way tomorrow from 11 am-2 pm. T-shirts will also be given away to students, and the goal is to collect at least fifty completed surveys. He distributes sign-up sheet.
- D. Petra Favorite (UConnPIRG campus organizer) announces that 100% Renewable Energy will hold a table tomorrow from 7-9 pm in McMahon. She distributes sign-up sheet.
- E. Favorite (UConnPIRG campus organizer) discusses the countdown to NVRD, pushing for social media action to promote the event. She also outlines the on-campus PIRG student leadership retreat, which will take place this Saturday from 11 am-6 pm and this Sunday from 9 am-2 pm; volunteers and staff from UConnPIRG and other nearby PIRG chapters (e.g. Trinity, Hartford, Massachusetts, New Jersey) will be discussing various aspects of PIRG organizations, and these retreats are worthwhile to meet new people and hear unique perspectives. She implores anyone with even a remote interest and availability to sign up for the event; the deadline for signups is tonight.
- F. Gagnon (Vice Chair) opens up the floor for questions about the retreat. She and Hillerud remark upon the opportunities for collaboration with other PIRG volunteers and staff via skills trainings - which are geared specifically toward each attendee's PIRG experience level - and breakout sessions. The timing of the retreat - immediately after the initiation of campaign work for the semester - is also ideal.

IX. Weekly Warning

- A. Turano discusses her cleanup of UConnPIRG's formerly messy office. Moving forward, she plans to strictly enforce weekly warnings to members who leave messes in the office. She receives thanks for her efforts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm

Minutes submitted by Michael Katz (Secretary)