

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 20-06
Monday September 23rd, 2019, 7 PM
SU 310

Voting Members: Emily O'Hara (Chair), Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair), Samuel Donahue (Treasurer), Michael Katz (Secretary), Kyleigh Hillerud, Elizabeth Turano, Leah LePage, Peyton Marie DeLorenzo Pease, Cheyenne Tavares, Victor Htut, Chris Brown, Angelina Vaccarelli, Sean Oppenheimer, Brian Garzon, Audrey Soltis, Rebecca Ryan, Dylan DeMoura, Julia Ward, Colleen Keller

Non-Voting Members: Dean Edwards, Gino Giansanti, Matt Trainor, Maya Murarka, Nikki Santillo, Shafina Chowdhury, Samantha Miller

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

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:02pm by Emily O'Hara (Chair)
- II. Introductions
- III. Campaign Updates
 - A. Kyleigh Hillerud recaps last week's Zero Waste mini-petition blitz, where the campaign collected about 700 petitions for a citywide styrofoam ban in Mansfield and reached approximately 1700 total petitions of its semester goal of 2500. There will be a visibility blitz this week, which will entail propmaking and poster sessions.
 - B. Erin McConnell reflects upon last Tuesday's Affordable Textbooks table in front of Homer Babbidge Library, where students completed a nationwide survey about their textbook prices. The campaign collected 153 surveys, which is roughly halfway toward its goal for mid-October. There will be a poster session with flyers that contain a QR code for the survey, as well as another table coming soon.
 - C. Colleen Keller announces that there will be a propmaking session tomorrow night as Hunger & Homelessness plans its awareness week.
 - D. O'Hara (Chair) reminds Core that National Voter Registration Day is tomorrow.
 1. Victor Htut announces that he has an online signup sheet for a New Voters Project table tomorrow from 11 am-5 pm, where volunteers will clipboard to ask students to register to vote. The goal for this table is to register at least 150 people to vote. Htut implores Core to sign up for the table.
 2. O'Hara (Chair) mentions this week's HuskyEngage summit and distributes flyers. She suggests that those who have not yet registered for the event scan the QR code on the flyer and do so, while those who have registered already can post the flyer onto their door for others to see.
- IV. Climate Strike/PIRG Student Leadership Retreat Recap
 - A. Climate Strike
 1. Donahue (Treasurer) is pleasantly surprised that the climate strike maintained momentum throughout its duration.

2. McConnell appreciates that UConn president Thomas Katsouleas spoke to the climate strikers who were organizing outside his office, and that he later posted on Instagram to further address students.
 3. Audrey Soltis likes that there were more petition sheets for students to fill.
 4. Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair) recounts that Mae Flexer and Gregg Haddad visited, signing the organization's petitions and taking a photo with some members for social media.
 5. Hillerud admires all the powerful student speakers.
- B. PIRG Student Leadership Retreat
1. O'Hara (Chair) recaps this weekend's student leadership retreat, which involved a multitude of trainings, workshops, and collaborations with members of other PIRG state chapters. She asks for feedback on the retreat.
 2. Cheyenne Tavares lauds the educational experience and opportunity to meet people from other chapters. She spent time with national NVP director Manny, which proved productive.
 3. Soltis also liked hearing out-of-state PIRG members' input and enjoyed the workshops.
 4. Chris Brown praises the opportunity to talk to people from different campuses who volunteer on the same campaign as he does.
 5. Keller highlights the campaign breakouts - particularly the one for her campaign, H & H.
 6. Htut remarks that being afforded the choice of attending specific workshops was helpful, and that he enjoyed meeting people who do things differently, yet hold the same values as he does.
 7. Tavares praises Hillerud for her social media training.
 8. Dylan DeMoura liked bonding with newer members and took away plenty of great ideas for this semester.
 9. Angelina Vaccarelli enjoyed the campaign breakouts and personal story workshop.
 10. McConnell also drew inspiration from the personal story workshop, as she was encouraged to view it from a new perspective.
 11. Hillerud's favorite part was meeting new and/or out-of-state people beyond her Zero Waste group and learning about their work. She mentions that there will be another PIRG student leadership retreat in March 2020 - this one taking place in Massachusetts.

V. Business

A. Trash Bags for Zero Waste Campus Cleanups

1. Hillerud describes Zero Waste campus cleanups, where volunteers visit on-campus locations and pick up trash. Volunteers ran out of trash bags during the last campus cleanup a couple weeks ago. She reflects upon the importance of inviting student volunteers and other people on-campus to spread awareness of UConn's waste issue.
2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve \$13.99 total for the purchase of 120 13-gallon trash bags for Zero Waste campus cleanups.

3. Donahue (Treasurer) seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
- B. 10/26/19 Storrs Adventure Park Visit
1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) reveals that social chair Chad Schroeder - whose duty is to create organizational bonding opportunities and schedule events that relate to UConnPIRG's mission - discussed with a Storrs Adventure Park administrator the possibility of a group park visit.
 2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$660 for a visit to Storrs Adventure Park on October 26.
 3. Donahue (Treasurer) seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
- C. Black and Color Toner for Color Printer
1. Donahue (Treasurer) expresses a desire to stock up on toner because UConnPIRG typically runs through its supply quickly.
 2. Donahue (Treasurer) motions to approve up to \$630 for the purchase of black and color toner.
 3. McConnell seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
- D. August 2019 Monthly Bill
1. Donahue (Treasurer) reveals that for August 2019, UConnPIRG owes \$20.60 for its monthly telephone bill.
Kurt Daigle (UConnPIRG primary advisor) enters the room at 7:25 pm.
 2. Donahue (Treasurer) motions to approve \$20.60 for the payment of UConnPIRG's August 2019 monthly bill.
 3. DeMoura seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
- E. Catering for Activist Leadership Program
1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) provides a brief overview of UConnPIRG's activist leadership program. There will be cohort meetings biweekly (i.e. every two weeks), where dinner will be provided. UConn University Catering will serve attendees at four meetings throughout the semester. \$3,000 is a maximum estimate (\$25/person * 30 people * 4 meetings); not all of this money will be spent.
 2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$3,000 for catering for the activist leadership program.
 3. Htut seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
- F. Textbooks Shirts
1. McConnell displays the design for new UConnPIRG OER shirts. She proposes 300 shirts to give away to students at a big table in mid-October during Open Access Week; leftovers can be preserved for future events.
 2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$4,000 for the purchase of 300 UConnPIRG OER shirts.
 3. Hillerud seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.

G. Drinking Tumblers

1. McConnell displays the design for Open Access Week-themed drinking tumblers, crediting UConnPIRG campus organizer Petra Favorite and Affordable Textbooks co-coordinator Deevena Annavarjula for the idea. McConnell proposes 200 drinking tumblers for Open Access Week and other campaign events. Upon further inspection, she later suggests removing “2019” from the design for the sake of maintaining the product’s relevance beyond the event.
2. O’Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$2,000 for the purchase of 200 Open Access Week-themed drinking tumblers.
3. Brown seconds.
4. Motion passes unanimously.

H. General UConnPIRG Apparel

1. Hillerud claims that UConn’s other Tier III organizations have plenty of general merchandise, and so UConnPIRG should follow suit. Ideally said merchandise could be given away to students at any event (e.g. involvement fairs, kickoffs, etc.). Hillerud displays the design for new UConnPIRG T-shirts, proposing the purchase of 500 of them.
2. O’Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$4,000 for the purchase of 500 UConnPIRG T-shirts.
3. Htut seconds.
4. Discussion
 - a) McConnell inquires about the shirt design, to which Hillerud clarifies the difference between it and the quarter zip design.
5. Motion passes unanimously.

I. Approval of Minutes

1. Michael Katz (Secretary) - having forgotten to address the matter over the previous couple weeks - expresses an urgency to approve the minutes from September 4, 9, and 16’s Core meetings.
2. O’Hara (Chair) motions to approve all three sets of minutes.
3. Keller seconds.
4. Motion passes unanimously.

J. Endorsement/Partnership in Swipe Out Hunger Initiative

1. O’Hara (Chair) describes her meeting with UConn administrators and student leaders, where she learned that the Office of Student Affairs is launching the Swipe Out Hunger program on-campus and asking for students to work with Student Affairs, Dining Services, and the dean of students to support the initiative. This would relate closely to UConnPIRG’s mission - particularly to its H & H campaign.
2. O’Hara (Chair) motions to endorse Swipe Out Hunger and partner with UConn’s vice president of student affairs on the matter.
3. Tavares seconds.
4. Discussion
 - a) McConnell requests clarification regarding what “participation” in this initiative would entail, to which O’Hara (Chair) provides

examples (e.g. posting on social media, handing out flyers, designing graphics, and any other basic means of promotion).

5. Motion passes unanimously.

- VI. Sign-Ups/Office Cleanup
- A. O'Hara (Chair) announces that Htut has NVRD signup sheets and Hillerud has Zero Waste signup sheets. Htut and Hillerud pass around their laptops so that the rest of Core can sign up for this week's events.
 - B. Elizabeth Turano asks that campaign coordinators stake a claim for the props that they wish to keep. The rest will be disposed of in an effort to declutter the office. Nobody received a "weekly warning" this week.
- VII. Values Activity
- A. O'Hara (Chair) describes the values activity - each Core member will be given a double-sided sheet containing 120 different values and must narrow down the list to their personal top five before discussing with the rest of their group. She distributes the sheets and divides Core into five breakout groups, which she, Gagnon (Vice Chair), Hillerud, Keller, and McConnell facilitate.
- VIII. Announcements
- A. O'Hara (Chair) encourages Core to attend Revolution Against Rape's March to End Victim Blaming on September 27 at 4:30 pm on Fairfield Way.
 - B. O'Hara (Chair) confirms that with the application deadline having passed prior to the start of tonight's Core meeting, an announcement regarding the appointment of UConnPIRG's new retention manager is coming soon.
 - C. Gagnon (Vice Chair) announces that biweekly cohort meetings for the Activist Leadership Program will begin on October 1, taking place every other Tuesday at 8 pm. Participants should check their emails to find their respective mentor/mentee partnerships and schedule an introductory meeting prior to the first cohort meeting, while others who want to join should talk to her after tonight's Core meeting.
 - D. O'Hara (Chair) announces the exhibition of a UConnPIRG town hall on September 30 at 7 pm in SU 310, where students outside of the organization are welcome to ask questions and provide feedback. She asks that organizational members - besides a select few in official leadership positions - refrain from speaking at the town hall, but clarifies that they should still feel free to attend and bring other interested parties to the event. Immediately after Wednesday's activist class, there will be a poster session to promote the town hall.
 - E. Donahue (Treasurer) calls upon campaign coordinators with the news that purchase orders are open as of today.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Minutes submitted by Michael Katz (Secretary)