

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 20-07
Monday October 7th, 2019, 7 PM
SU 310

Voting Members: Emily O'Hara (Chair), Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair), Samuel Donahue (Treasurer), Michael Katz (Secretary), Colleen Keller, Dean Edwards, Audrey Soltis, Angelina Vaccarelli, Gino Giansanti, Brian Garzon, Ben Albee, Chris Brown, Matt Trainor, Julia Ward, Dylan DeMoura, Venkata Patchigolla, Erin McConnell, Kyleigh Hillerud, Elizabeth Turano, Rachel Cormier, Salaah Dean Kanaan, Shafina Chowdhury

Non-Voting Members: Joseph Magnifico

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. Chapter Updates
 - A. Ex Officio Senator
 1. Colleen Keller discusses her official approval as UConnPIRG's ex officio senator for USG. She recounts that the last meeting - where Fabio Saccomanno was elected as the new comptroller - lasted four hours. She asks Core for input concerning USG meeting discussion points.
 - B. Campaign Updates
 1. Affordable Textbooks
 - a) Erin McConnell announces that Affordable Textbooks is holding a table on October 10 from 3-6 pm, where students can take the nationwide textbooks survey.
 - b) Brian Garzon discusses the survey and confirms that the October 10 table will be outside Homer Babbidge Library by the university seal.
 - c) McConnell distributes a signup sheet and asks that Core members attend the table.
 2. Zero Waste
 - a) Kyleigh Hillerud reflects upon last week's three petition tables and the 1900 student petitions in favor of a statewide polystyrene ban collected this semester. This week there will be databasing on October 8 and 10 from 2-4 pm in SU 214, for which she distributes a signup sheet. She details her, Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair) and Petra Favorite (UConnPIRG campus organizer)'s meeting with Mansfield's Solid Waste Advisory Committee, which has a resolution in support of a statewide polystyrene ban but does not believe that the initiative would prove useful on a municipal level.
 3. New Voters Project

- a) Chris Brown details the “institutionalization” press conference that will take place in the Student Union’s North lobby at 5 pm on November 4. Those who are interested in attending should notify Brown or O’Hara (Chair) two to three weeks in advance. Plans to increase voter registration and civic action at UConn include establishing an on-campus civic engagement office, amending UConn’s civic action plan with more student-originated ideas, and talking to the Residence Hall Association (RHA) to get freshmen registered on campus. Orientation initiatives have been put on hold.
 - b) O’Hara (Chair) distributes signup sheets for the press conference and this week’s propmaking, flyering, and tabling sessions.
 - c) Brown describes UConn’s Ensolve report, which tracked student voter registration statistics across several criteria from 2016-2018 and found double-digit increases in voting rates across the board. The press conference was created to distribute this information to the public and UConn administrators.
 - d) O’Hara (Chair) briefly reflects upon the HuskyEngage Summit, noting that it was fun but would have benefited from higher attendance.
4. 100% Renewable Energy
- a) Venkata Patchigolla announces that 100% Renewable Energy is holding a table on October 10 from 4-7 pm in Towers to collect student petitions in favor of electric busing at UConn.
 - b) Ben Albee mentions that on November 15, there will be a referendum regarding the establishment of a net zero school in Mansfield. The campaign may textbank that day to garner support.
 - c) Gagnon (Vice Chair) asks that those interested in meeting with Mansfield net zero school advocates on October 11 at 1:30 pm contact Albee.
5. Hunger & Homelessness
- a) Keller announces that Hunger & Homelessness has been planning its awareness week, which will take place during the week of November 17. Events include a poverty simulation, movie screening, and a panel discussion with guest speakers. The campaign has reserved a room and conducted research for the poverty simulation, and it hopes to receive approval for awareness week t-shirts and panel event catering.

IV. The UConnPIRG Tripod: Campus Relations

A. Overview

- 1. O’Hara (Chair) details campus relations. As chapter chair she coordinates it, but all organizational members can get involved. This serves as a way to build reach, power, and support for all campaigns. She provides examples of administrators and groups with whom members might engage, alongside elements of effective engagement. She expresses

satisfaction with UConnPIRG's campus relations thus far, but also notes that there is still room for improvement.

B. Breakouts

1. O'Hara (Chair) divides Core into five groups - facilitated by herself, Gagnon (Vice Chair), Hillerud, Keller, and Dylan DeMoura - that conduct hypothetical campus relations meetings.
Kurt Daigle (UConnPIRG primary advisor) enters the room at 7:42 pm.

V. Business

A. Approval of 9/23/19 Minutes

1. Michael Katz (Secretary) explains that although UConnPIRG held its town hall last week, Core still must approve the minutes from its most recent meeting.
2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the 9/23/19 Core meeting minutes.
3. Keller seconds.
4. Motion passes unanimously (*Patchigolla abstains*).

B. Candy for Student Union Trick or Treat

1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) describes the annual Halloween trick-or-treat event among UConn's Tier III organizations, which serves as a way to spread awareness about and recruit volunteers to said organizations while providing students who visit their respective offices with candy.
2. O'Hara (Chair) shows a 6.5 lb pack of candy that would be used for the Student Union Trick or Treat and NVP's upcoming "Fall into Civic Engagement" table.
3. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$40 for candy for the Student Union Trick or Treat and NVP's "Fall into Civic Engagement" table.
4. DeMoura seconds.
5. Motion passes unanimously.

C. Hunger & Homelessness T-shirts

1. Keller displays the design for t-shirts to be given away to students during Hunger & Homelessness's awareness week. She proposes 500 short-sleeved shirts, distributed by size as follows: 100 small, 150 medium, 150 large, and 100 extra large.
2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$2400 for Hunger & Homelessness t-shirts.
3. Hillerud seconds.
4. Discussion
 - a) Albee inquires about the difference between the exact cost of \$2030 and the up-to amount of \$2400.
 - (1) O'Hara (Chair) and Samuel Donahue (Treasurer) clarify the concept of establishing an up-to amount as an insurance policy.
 - b) Patchigolla questions the appeal of giving away short-sleeved shirts during the wintertime.
 - (1) Keller states that although she likes the idea of short-sleeved shirts, she is also open to long-sleeved shirts.

(2) Hillerud notes that UConnPIRG's incoming chapter t-shirts will be long-sleeved, so Hunger & Homelessness's short-sleeved t-shirts serve as a nice contrast.

5. Motion passes unanimously.

D. Adobe materials

1. Hillerud wants Adobe apps for UConnPIRG's office computer - specifically Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and Acrobat Pro. She does not wish to limit people from doing design work for the chapter. Acrobat Pro would greatly benefit Donahue (Treasurer) and Rachel Cormier (Donahue's assistant), who have been borrowing Hillerud's account. This semester, NVP social media coordinator Cheyenne Tavares is holding a chapterwide design course to illustrate the use of these apps. One year's subscription to these apps would cost \$899.52 total - \$179.88 for Acrobat Pro and \$239.88 each for Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign.
2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$1,000 for one year's subscription to Adobe materials.
3. Donahue (Treasurer) seconds.
4. Motion passes unanimously.

E. Halloween cookie order

1. Brown proposes the purchase of 300 Insomnia Cookies for NVP's two upcoming Halloween tables, which would cost \$382.86 total.
2. O'Hara (Chair) notes that cookies will be offered to anyone who visits the tables, which will be held on two separate days leading up to the statewide voter registration deadline on October 29.
3. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$400 for the purchase of 300 Insomnia Cookies for NVP's two upcoming Halloween tables.
4. Brown seconds.
5. Motion passes unanimously (*Albee abstains*).

F. Office supplies

1. Elizabeth Turano lists a plethora of office supplies that must be restocked so that UConnPIRG can run effectively. The total cost is \$150.
2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$200 for office supplies.
3. Donahue (Treasurer) seconds.
4. Motion passes unanimously.

G. Hunger & Homelessness Event Catering

1. Keller expresses her desire for University Services catering for Hunger & Homelessness's "Voices on Poverty" panel event on November 20 at 7 pm, which would fall around dinnertime for many attendees. She accounts for up to 35 attendees in her valuations.
2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$1500 for University Services catering for the "Voices on Poverty" panel event.
3. Shafina Chowdhury seconds.
4. Motion passes unanimously.

H. Statement of Position Regarding Bottled Water and Refill Stations

1. O'Hara (Chair) remarks upon USG senator Sarah Hill - who worked on UConnPIRG's Take Back the Tap and Zero Waste campaigns - sending out a statement of position regarding bottled water and refill stations. Katz (Secretary) sent this out to the chapter on the night of October 6. O'Hara (Chair) reads some text directly from Hill's statement. Besides benefiting campus relations, chapterwide endorsement of this statement would demonstrate consistency with organizational initiatives because UConnPIRG worked on Ban the Bottle previously.
 2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to endorse USG's water bottle refill station legislation.
 3. Hillerud seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
- I. Update on Save the Bees campaign
1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) announces this semester's suspension of the Save the Bees campaign, citing the campaign coordinator's personal struggles and the fact that nobody else was well-positioned to run it, either. Volunteers and interns are being reassigned to active campaigns, but anyone who is interested in running Save the Bees next semester can pitch a campaign proposal later this semester.
- VI. Weekly Warning
- A. Turano issues her weekly warning for office disorderliness. She cites someone cutting out the front of the clipboard box for no apparent reason, 100% Renewable Energy and Zero Waste volunteers not putting away their petition sheets and clipboards, and Donahue (Treasurer) leaving food waste in the office.
- VII. Announcements
- A. O'Hara (Chair) announces that there is a new office calendar.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm
Minutes submitted by Michael Katz (Secretary)