

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 20-08
Monday October 14th, 2019, 7 PM
SU 310

Voting Members: Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair), Samuel Donahue (Treasurer), Michael Katz (Secretary), Audrey Soltis, Colleen Keller, Dean Edwards, Amanda Cicchetti, Parth Patel, Rebecca Ryan, Brian Garzon, Angelina Vaccarelli, Leah LePage, Dea Ballij, Dylan DeMoura, Ben Albee, Victor Htut, Cheyenne Tavares, Chris Brown, Kyleigh Hillerud, Julia Ward

Non-Voting Members: Daniella Chuka

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

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:02pm by Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair)
- II. Introductions
- III. Campaign/Chapter Updates
 - A. Zero Waste
 1. Kyleigh Hillerud recaps last week's databasing and announces that there will be more sessions this Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3-5 pm in SU 214 to database the over 1900 student petitions collected thus far. She distributes a signup sheet for this week's databasing. Other events that are being scheduled include educational service-learning projects in Hartford schools, campus cleanups, and a November movie screening.
 - B. Hunger & Homelessness
 1. Colleen Keller announces that for its upcoming awareness week, Hunger & Homelessness has reached out to speakers for its panel discussion and reserved a room for its movie screening. She distributes a signup sheet for October 16's Give-a-Meal event while discussing Swipe Out Hunger's mission to alleviate on-campus food insecurity via its student meal swipe donation program. She lists volunteer locations and times for October 16.
 2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) expresses a need for more volunteers on October 16, citing the Division of Student Affairs's acknowledgement of the shortage.
 - C. New Voters Project
 1. Victor Htut recaps last week's propmaking and overview of a campus action plan from the HuskyEngage summit. There will be a "Fall into Civic Engagement"-themed voter registration table tomorrow with a goal of attaining fifty new student voter registrations.
 2. Dea Ballij asks that Core members sign up online tonight to volunteer at the table.
 - D. Affordable Textbooks
 1. Brian Garzon reflects upon the success of last week's table, where fifty students completed the nationwide textbook survey. He displays a QR code that those interested in taking the survey can scan. He announces that

there will be another table on October 23 from 10:30 am-1:30 pm in front of Homer Babbidge Library.

E. 100% Renewable Energy

1. Parth Patel announces that at last Thursday's table, 100% Renewable Energy collected 185 student petitions in favor of on-campus electric busing. The campaign is planning an event with guest speakers and other influencers - alongside some "get out the vote" tables - to promote the Mansfield net zero school initiative. In order for the initiative to go into effect, at least fifty percent of Mansfield's population must vote on the matter on Election Day (November 5). On Friday, the campaign will meet with Greg Miller to discuss on-campus transportation.
2. Ben Albee announces that there will be a table on Thursday from 5-8 pm at McMahon, alongside a postermaking session tomorrow from 4-5 pm.

F. Ex Officio Senator

1. Keller recaps last week's emergency senate meeting, where USG passed legislation recognizing UConn's food insecurity epidemic and regarding textbook price transparency. She believes that this week likely will be more routine with bills under discussion that largely do not pertain to UConnPIRG's work, but that Core members should send her suggestions for meeting discussion topics. She is co-authoring a bill with Albee concerning Mansfield's net zero school initiative.

IV. The UConnPIRG Tripod: Leadership Development

A. Quick presentation

1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) discusses the importance of leadership development within the context of UConnPIRG's day-to-day operation. She outlines several principles of leadership development.
Kurt Daigle (UConnPIRG primary advisor) enters the room at 7:19 pm.
2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) lists the specific avenues through which UConnPIRG develops its leaders and explains why it is critical for organizational members to craft their personal stories and share them with incoming members. She asks Core to name situations during which it would be appropriate to tell a personal story and then provides her own list. The personal story's four primary components are challenge, choice, outcome, and values.

B. Breakouts: Personal stories

1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) divides Core into five groups - facilitated by Hillerud, Keller, Chris Brown, Albee, and Patel - whose members craft and share their respective personal stories.
2. Albee reiterates 100% Renewable Energy's upcoming tabling and postermaking sessions and distributes sign-up sheets.

V. Business

A. Approval of 10/7/19 Minutes

1. Michael Katz (Secretary) proposes an amendment to the minutes, changing "'Why Vote?' event" to "'Fall into Civic Engagement' table" within the "Candy for Student Union Trick or Treat" section.

2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve the amendment.
 3. Albee seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
 5. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve the amended 10/7/19 minutes.
 6. Keller seconds.
 7. Motion passes unanimously.
- B. September 2019 Monthly Bill
1. Samuel Donahue (Treasurer) announces that UConnPIRG must pay its monthly \$20.60 telephone bill for September 2019.
 2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve the payment of \$20.60 toward UConnPIRG's September 2019 monthly bill.
 3. Hillerud seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
- C. Price Chopper candy for Affordable Textbooks tables
1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) explains that Affordable Textbooks is holding many Open Access Week-themed tables close to Halloween. She displays three bags of candy worth \$9.99 each (i.e. \$29.97 total) without tax.
 2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve up to \$50 for the purchase of Price Chopper candy for Affordable Textbooks tables.
 3. Donahue (Treasurer) seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
- D. Weekly Acrobat design classes
1. Cheyenne Tavares announces that starting this Friday, she will be instructing organizational members in using the Adobe materials approved during last week's Core meeting - specifically Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and Acrobat Pro. There will be ten classes and three workshops throughout the semester. The USG conference room holds a maximum of eighteen people, so anyone interested in attending should speak with Tavares immediately after tonight's Core meeting.
- E. Travel expenses for SLSV Coalition summit
1. Tavares announces that she and Emily O'Hara (Chair) will attend the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition summit in Washington, D.C. from November 13-14. Although hotel room expenses have been paid, airfare expenses still must be paid.
 2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) explains that this summit provides a networking platform and an opportunity to discuss NVP campaign plans for upcoming semesters. Every year, UConnPIRG sends representatives who take valuable information back to the organization.
Tavares exits the room.
 3. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve up to \$1,000 for SLSV Coalition summit travel expenses.
 4. Hillerud seconds.
 5. Discussion
 - a) Donahue (Treasurer) asks for clarification that the payment is for O'Hara (Chair) and Tavares's flights exclusively.

(1) Gagnon (Vice Chair) affirms this statement.

b) Brown wonders whether food has been accounted for within the valuations.

(1) Gagnon (Vice Chair) notes that the subject of food for O'Hara (Chair) and Tavares will be addressed at a future Core meeting.

6. Motion passes unanimously (*Tavares recuses herself*).
Tavares reenters the room.

VI. Announcements

- A. Hillerud recounts Gagnon (Vice Chair), Rachel Cormier, Julia Ward, and Audrey Soltis's call with UConnPIRG lobbyist Jim Leahy today.
1. Ward cites the idea of writing to local legislators statewide - regardless of their political affiliation - as a major discussion point.
 2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) clarifies that the Connecticut General Assembly will be better positioned to collaborate with UConnPIRG upon convening for its next legislative session on February 5, 2020.
 3. Hillerud characterizes Leahy as a vital organizational asset.
- B. Hillerud highlights Donahue (Treasurer) and Katz (Secretary)'s donning of UConnPIRG's new long-sleeved t-shirts. Donahue (Treasurer) poses, showing the shirt's front and back sides. Hillerud implores Core members to visit SU 214 and take a t-shirt, provided that they document themselves properly as UConn students. Also, the shirts will be distributed to students at future campaign events.
- C. Ballij asks that Core members sign up online to attend NVP's "Why Vote?" event.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm

Minutes submitted by Michael Katz (Secretary)