

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 20-13
Monday November 18th, 2019, 7 PM
SU 310

Voting Members: Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair), Samuel Donahue (Treasurer), Michael Katz (Secretary), Shafina Chowdhury, Brian Garzon, Julia Ward, Angelina Vaccarelli, Audrey Soltis, Amanda Cicchetti, Chad Schroeder, Victor Htut, Cheyenne Tavares, Kyleigh Hillerud, Erin McConnell, Elizabeth Turano, Ben Albee, Dylan DeMoura, Leah LePage, Natalie Seier, Maya Murarka

Guests: Kurt Daigle (UConnPIRG primary advisor)

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:01pm by Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair)
- II. Introductions
- III. Chapter Updates
 - A. Ex Officio Senator Update
 1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) speaks on behalf of Colleen Keller, who is currently coordinating Hunger & Homelessness's poverty simulation. USG passed food insecurity legislation to make halal food more accessible at UConn.
 2. Ben Albee notes that Towers was the only on-campus dining hall serving halal food (and this was after 7:15 pm). The aforementioned legislation adds McMahon as an option.
 - B. Campaign Updates
 1. Zero Waste
 - a) Kyleigh Hillerud reiterates tomorrow's film screening.
 - b) Angelina Vaccarelli provides further details. The campaign will screen "The True Cost," a documentary about the fashion industry's negative environmental impact. There will also be discussion and a giveaway table, so Core members should attend.
 - c) Hillerud implores Core to join her in making lip scrubs after tonight's meeting.
 2. New Voters Project
 - a) Cheyenne Tavares elaborates upon her and Emily O'Hara (Chair)'s two-day trip to the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition summit in Washington, D.C. They networked with other voting-focused student groups and organizations, engaging in discussions around the latest NSLVE report, upcoming census, increasing accessibility and closing participation gaps, and initiating institutionalization at the high school level. During a brainstorming session, Tavares gave a pitch for a new Facebook tool that could facilitate civic engagement. Overall, Tavares and O'Hara (Chair) had uplifting conversations regarding Spring 2020.
 3. Hunger & Homelessness
 - a) Gagnon (Vice Chair) again speaks on behalf of Keller. The campaign is holding its "Voices on Poverty" panel on November

20 at 7 pm in SU 304A. There will be free t-shirts, and this has been designated as an Honors event.

4. Affordable Textbooks
 - a) Erin McConnell announces that the campaign will have a faculty canvassing day on November 21 from 3-6 pm, and she will likely remind everyone with a message in the UConnPIRG GroupMe.
5. 100% Renewable Energy
 - a) **Amanda Cicchetti** reiterates the campaign's awareness event on November 20 at 5 pm, where the 2018 carbon emissions report will be discussed. Representatives from other student organizations may attend, and the event will be filmed (although not by UCTV).
 - b) Albee notes that he, Parth Patel, and Venkata Patchigolla will give presentations.
 - c) Hillerud clarifies that the event will take place in SU 304D.
 - d) Gagnon (Vice Chair) notes that this week's activist class attendees will likely attend the event, which should be catered (although she expresses uncertainty of this fact).

C. Secret Snowflake

1. Chad Schroeder asks Core to take out their phones and scan the QR code as displayed on the projector to partake in this year's holiday gift exchange, which will take place during December 2's Core meeting. He claims that he will send an email about it tonight. Last week's email included a form that allows participants to list their interests. Chad implores Core to complete said form by tomorrow for the sake of matchmaking and to order their randomly selected partner's gift soon.
2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) clarifies that this year's maximum individual budget is \$10-\$15, so everyone should participate if interested and be creative in their gift ideas.
3. Schroeder reminds Core to be mindful of people's food allergies.

IV. Business

A. Approval of 11/11/19 Minutes

1. Michael Katz (Secretary), citing his insensitive word choice, proposes that he substitute "shames" with "warns" in the "Weekly Warning" section of the 11/11/19 minutes.
2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve the amendment to the 11/11/19 minutes.
3. Hillerud seconds.
4. Motion passes unanimously.
5. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve the amended minutes.
6. Hillerud seconds.
7. Motion passes unanimously (*McConnell abstains*).

B. SFAC Budget

1. Samuel Donahue (Treasurer) explains that the Student Fee Advisory Committee oversees UConn's fee bill charges, including the UConnPIRG fee. The chapter chair and treasurer must prepare and present the budget

with questionnaire and fact sheets, and Core must approve said budget. Donahue (Treasurer) displays a spreadsheet of the proposed budget for fiscal years 19-22, clarifying that 20 is the current fiscal year. He outlines the new student wages charge, which would go into effect in fiscal year 21. There have been internal discussions about compensating executive board and cabinet members financially, and the projections are based upon specific wages and hours that Donahue (Treasurer) has devised for each position.

2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) clarifies that this new charge will not affect current executive board and cabinet members. It is being proposed as a means of respecting these student leaders' time commitment and increasing the positions' inclusivity and accessibility. Although nothing has been decided definitively, the charge must be accounted for within the budget estimates.
3. Donahue (Treasurer) transitions to the budget questions sheet, where he outlines some specific adjustments to the previously proposed budget. He has added a \$300 printing expense, merged separate \$1,500 and \$500 supply expenses to better reflect the incurring total of \$1,856 in actual expenses, and modified the contractual services charge to better reflect the purchase orders. He has also changed the event/program-based contractual charge to \$15,000 and accommodated for new office furniture and computers in his modified \$80,000 equipment charge. He notes that the current surplus stands around \$450,000.
4. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve UConnPIRG's proposed SFAC budget for fiscal years 19-22.
5. McConnell seconds.
6. Motion passes unanimously.

C. Catering for Spring 2020 Recruitment Drive Baby Kickoff

1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) reads a statement from Keller, who will coordinate next semester's recruitment drive. On the first Sunday of the Spring 2020 semester, UConnPIRG will hold a "baby kickoff" for recruits to learn about the campaigns and receive tactical training. This will also provide an opportunity for volunteers across different campaigns to interact with and befriend one another, and having food will only provide further incentive for people to attend.
2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve up to \$100 for pizza for UConnPIRG's Spring 2020 recruitment drive baby kickoff.
3. Victor Htut seconds.
4. Discussion
 - a) Donahue (Treasurer) inquires about the type of pizza, to which Gagnon (Vice Chair) suggests an as-of-yet undetermined assortment from Sgt. Pepperoni.
5. Motion passes unanimously.

D. October 2019 Monthly Bill

1. Donahue (Treasurer) explains that the purchases approved during Core meetings are billed from the university account, which UConnPIRG must now reimburse. The total charge of \$3,557.98 consists of:
 - a) \$370 for Gansett Wraps (for September 2019's on-campus regional retreat),
 - b) \$1,643 for Open Access Week-themed drinking tumblers,
 - c) \$295 for HuskyEngage-themed phone wallets,
 - d) \$457.95 for an error made for another organization,
 - e) \$127.92 for Office Depot toner,
 - f) \$23.29 for Office Depot office supplies,
 - g) \$207.05 for Adobe Suite software,
 - h) separate \$97.97 and \$315.20 charges for toner, and
 - i) \$20.60 for telephone usage.
 2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve \$3,557.98 in total reimbursements for UConnPIRG's October 2019 monthly bill.
 3. Hillerud seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
- E. UConnPIRG Office Furniture
1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) explains that there have been discussions about replacing the UConnPIRG office's furniture, and that with the current carpet being replaced over winter break, this is an opportune moment to do so. She notes the unprofessionalism in using and displaying outdated, damaged furniture. She displays the projected design, clarifying that the final design will allow for more space by repositioning a desk. There would also be a computer for the campus organizer and two other computers for interns.
 2. Albee asks Gagnon (Vice Chair) if she is implying the impending acquisition of new computers. She confirms that there will be a vote on the matter next semester, assuming that the old computers can be discarded.
 3. Gagnon (Vice Chair) notes that the total cost will be \$12,826.49, but she proposes an up-to amount of \$15,000 to account for the slight design modification.
 4. Hillerud inquires about the future whereabouts of disposable office assets, to which Gagnon (Vice Chair) suggests that they will most likely be discarded or taken by Surplus Operations. Elizabeth Turano remarks upon the mandatory consultation of the Student Union regarding inventory issues. Gagnon (Vice Chair) notes that there will be an office cleanup prior to finals week.
 5. Htut inquires about the implications that the purchase of new furniture would have on UConnPIRG's pursuit of a new office. Gagnon (Vice Chair) clarifies that UConnPIRG is not moving to a new office, but will make a bid for an additional office next semester to allow for more space.
 6. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve up to \$15,000 for new office furniture.
 7. Donahue (Treasurer) seconds.

8. Motion passes unanimously.

McConnell exits at 7:37 pm.

F. Reimbursement for Pizza for November 21 Zero Waste Meeting

1. Hillerud expresses a desire to have pizza for the semester's final Zero Waste meeting on Thursday, where volunteers will celebrate and reflect upon their accomplishments. She proposes up to \$40 in reimbursement.
2. Leah LePage asks if Zero Waste campaign members should abstain from the vote. Hillerud initially says yes, but Gagnon (Vice Chair) clarifies that standard procedure calls for Hillerud to recuse herself while everyone else is open to vote.

Hillerud leaves the room at 7:39 pm.

3. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve up to \$40 in reimbursement to Hillerud for pizza for the November 21 Zero Waste meeting.
4. Turano seconds.
5. Motion passes unanimously (*Kyleigh recuses herself*).

Hillerud reenters at 7:39 pm.

G. Fall 2019 ConnPIRG Invoices

1. Donahue (Treasurer) notes that because purchase orders for this semester's campaigns are complete, Core must approve invoices for ConnPIRG. The final charges for the semester's services rendered through ConnPIRG, which total \$8,850, are as follows:
 - a) \$2,190 for New Voters Project meetings,
 - b) \$1,460 for Zero Waste meetings,
 - c) \$2,095 for Affordable Textbooks meetings,
 - d) \$560 for 100% Renewable Energy meetings,
 - e) \$1,200 for Hunger & Homelessness meetings, and
 - f) \$1,345 for general meetings.

2. Hillerud asks about the approval number from Spring 2019, which Donahue (Treasurer) suggests was approximately \$30,000.
3. Dylan DeMoura wonders which campaign was the most expensive this semester. Donahue (Treasurer) clarifies that the "most expensive" campaign is the one that had the greatest number of documentable services rendered; by this measure, New Voters Project was the most expensive campaign this semester.

Natalie Seier enters the room at 7:43 pm.

4. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve \$8,850 for Fall 2019's ConnPIRG invoices.
5. Shafina Chowdhury seconds.
6. Motion passes unanimously (*Seier abstains*).

V. ConnPIRG Statewide Updates

- A. Hillerud recaps yesterday's state board meeting, where Schroeder and Tavares were officially recognized as Spring 2020 state board representatives - with Schroeder also being elected as the incoming state board treasurer - and Zero Waste was designated as Spring 2020's statewide lead campaign. Attendees engaged in promising conversations regarding student development, diversity and

inclusion, and the state of Connecticut as a whole. There were also insightful call-ins from other Student PIRGs organizers, and members of Trinity's chapter were in attendance. Hillerud implores those interested in engaging in state board discussions to consult her after tonight's meeting, at which point she will direct any pertinent emails to them. Because they lacked the opportunity to discuss statewide expansion in-depth, Hillerud and Gagnon (Vice Chair) will schedule phone calls over winter break to do so.

- B. Gagnon (Vice Chair) expresses her excitement to work on legislation, with the Connecticut General Assembly in session next semester. She will hold legislative meetings.

VI. Announcements

- A. Gagnon (Vice Chair) notes that UConnPIRG's Spring 2020 treasurer's assistant will be announced in an email later this week.
- B. Gagnon (Vice Chair) outlines the need for volunteers for Give a Meal's event on December 4, where students will table at dining halls and encourage their peers to donate their meal swipes to those combating food insecurity. Katz (Secretary) will send out an email tonight with further details and a signup sheet.
 - 1. Chowdhury asks if there is a limit to the number of meal swipes that a student can donate. Gagnon (Vice Chair) expresses uncertainty, but suggests that volunteers encourage their fellow students to donate as many meal swipes as possible.
- C. Gagnon (Vice Chair) reiterates that UCCO and UConn NAACP are organizing a march for solidarity tomorrow from 12-2 pm, starting on the Student Union Terrace. The three major, intersecting initiatives are climate justice, social justice, and women's rights. Gagnon (Vice Chair) displays a QR code for those who wish to attend the march with fellow UConnPIRG members, and implores those unable to attend to share the event on social media.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm

Minutes submitted by Michael Katz (Secretary)