

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 20-16
Monday January 27th, 2020, 7 PM
SU 310

Voting Members: Emily O'Hara (Chair), Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair), Rachel Cormier (Treasurer), Michael Katz (Secretary), Victor Htut, Ben Albee, Chad Schroeder, Peyton Marie De Lorenzo Pease, Elizabeth Braun, Shafina Chowdhury, Amanda Cicchetti, Angelina Vaccarelli, Colleen Keller, Julia Ward, Erin McConnell, Kyleigh Hillerud, Leah LePage, Dylan DeMoura, Elizabeth Turano, Maya Murarka, Venkata Patchigolla

Non-voting Members: Kerwin Keshav, Nia Moore, Rebecca Tripp, Maria Mejia-Giron, Bianca Spataro, Ji Ho Lee, Andrew Fenton, Maria Mack, Natalie Fuerst, Sarah Goodwin, Michelle Pan

Guests: Kurt Daigle (UConnPIRG primary advisor)

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:01pm by Emily O'Hara (Chair)
- II. Introductions
- III. Campaign Introductions and Recruitment Drive Updates
 - A. O'Hara (Chair) asks Core to sign up for recruitment drive volunteering events.
 - B. Colleen Keller discusses the recruitment drive's importance. Statistical goals include 115 students at kickoff and 1,300 interest cards collected (250 have been collected so far). More volunteers are needed for databasing, tabling, class raps, etc. Kickoff will take place on February 5 at 7 pm in SU 304 and consist of an organizational history, funding overview, campaign discussion, guest speakers, and campaign breakouts.
 - C. Kyleigh Hillerud debriefs the National Student Training that took place over winter break with representatives from UConnPIRG and other national PIRG chapters. There were great trainings and discussions related to the national movement.
 1. Ben Albee was interested to see how other campuses' volunteers approached the same campaign.
 2. Dylan DeMoura was interested to see people sharing the same passions and challenges as his on-campus counterparts.
 3. Hillerud took the most value from learning how to prepare for victories that UConnPIRG might attain.
 4. Keller took the most value from learning how to be a better activist and delegate more often.
 5. DeMoura gained motivation and confidence heading into this semester.
 6. Albee concurs with Keller and DeMoura's sentiments.
 - D. O'Hara (Chair) asks each campaign coordinator to signify themselves and give any urgent updates.
 1. Shafina Chowdhury, Affordable Textbooks coordinator, announces an upcoming faculty luncheon.
 2. DeMoura, Zero Waste coordinator, recounts an action item from January 25's UConnPIRG orientation, where he urged attendees to tweet at state

representatives to prioritize a statewide polystyrene ban. State Senator Christine Cohen's "like" of Michael Katz (Secretary)'s Twitter post shows the impact of this exercise.

3. Victor Htut, New Voters Project co-coordinator, announces that there will be a voter registration table tomorrow from 11 am-2 pm at South Dining Hall (the deadline for registered voters to affiliate with a party for the state primary is the same day).
4. Albee introduces himself as the 100% Renewable Energy coordinator.
5. Keller introduces herself as the Hunger & Homelessness coordinator.
6. O'Hara (Chair) encourages Core to do inter-campaign work this semester.

IV. Organizational History of PIRG

- A. O'Hara (Chair) provides an abridged history of Student PIRGs and ConnPIRG. She also outlines ConnPIRG and UConnPIRG's organizational structures and recent victories. She then opens up discussion about the benefits and consequences of having nationwide reach.

V. Business

A. Approval of 1/7/20 Minutes

1. O'Hara (Chair) acknowledges that there was a brief call over winter break to address business.
2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the 1/7/20 minutes.
3. Hillerud seconds.
4. Discussion
 - a) DeMoura motions for his name to be added to the minutes, given that he was also on the call.
5. Motion passes unanimously (*Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair), Albee, Peyton Marie De Lorenzo Pease, Elizabeth Braun, Chowdhury, Amanda Cicchetti, Angelina Vaccarelli, Julia Ward, Erin McConnell, and Leah LePage abstain*).

B. Custom candy hearts for the New Voters Project Valentine's Day events

1. Htut wants to make voter registration more fun and UConn-focused, and so New Voters Project will hold a big giveaway table on Valentine's Day. The custom candy hearts and their packaging will display voting-related messages and UConnPIRG's social media handles.
2. O'Hara (Chair) inquires about the processing time, to which Htut says they should arrive in early February before Valentine's Day.
3. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the purchase of 200 sets of custom candy hearts for up to \$900 (\$700 plus shipping).
4. Albee seconds.
5. Motion passes unanimously.

C. PartyCity custom balloons and tablecloth

1. Htut also proposes custom balloons and a tablecloth for the aforementioned Valentine's Day table. The balloons will feature the slogan "I'm a Husky, I'm a Voter."

2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the purchase of ten PartyCity custom balloons and a tablecloth for up to \$100 (\$49.99 for the balloons, \$2.99 for the tablecloth, and \$3.36 tax - \$56.34 total).
 3. LePage seconds.
 4. Discussion
 - a) Hillerud suggests that future purchase proposers be more mindful of the potential for material waste, especially given UConnPIRG's reputation as a climate activist organization.
 5. Motion passes (*DeMoura dissents*).
- D. Catering for the Activist Leadership Program's Spring 2020 cohort meetings
1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) discusses UConnPIRG's activist mentorship program, a core element of which being biweekly cohort meetings that take place around dinnertime. She asks for up to \$4,000 for catering, but not all of this will be used (the total cost is \$3,795, which accounts for a higher number of attendees than expected and the extra expense of providing silverware for each one).
 2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) motions to approve catering for the Activist Leadership Program's Spring 2020 cohort meetings for up to \$4,000.
 3. Hillerud seconds.
 4. Discussion
 - a) Gagnon (Vice Chair) will determine a meeting location in the Student Union once a day and time are set.
 5. Motion passes unanimously.
- E. OER Shirts Re-vote
1. O'Hara (Chair) explains that Core had previously approved shirts for Open-Educational Resources Week for up to \$4,000, but this was misquoted (and thus the vendor had to be switched). Those overseeing the invoice missed the fact that there were charges for artwork, shipping and handling, and tax in addition to the original \$3,946.44 charge. The total cost was approximately \$4,200, and so now a new up-to amount must be approved.
 2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the purchase of OER shirts for up to \$4,500.
 3. McConnell seconds.
 4. Discussion
 - a) De Lorenzo Pease receives clarification from O'Hara (Chair) that this is in reference to shirts that were purchased already.
 5. Motion passes unanimously.
- VI. Weekly Warning
- A. Elizabeth Turano discusses her weekly warning. As office manager, she uses it to ensure that students keep the UConnPIRG office tidy and orderly. But the weekly warning is on hold until the new office furniture arrives.
- VII. Announcements

- A. O'Hara (Chair) notes that those passionate about eliminating bias, prejudice, and bigotry should explore the President's Commitment to Community Initiative. She distributes a flyer with further details.

Venkata Patchigolla enters the room at 7:57 pm.

- B. O'Hara (Chair) encourages Core to sign up in the office for recruitment drive volunteering events, and to sign up themselves and their friends for kickoff.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

Minutes submitted by Michael Katz (Secretary)