

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 20-17
Monday February 3rd, 2020, 7 PM
SU 310

Voting Members: Emily O'Hara (Chair), Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair), Rachel Cormier (Treasurer), Michael Katz (Secretary), Brian Garzon, Peyton Marie De Lorenzo Pease, Michelle Pan, Max Starke, Dylan DeMoura, Shafina Chowdhury, Rebecca Tripp, Angelina Vaccarelli, Maria Mejia-Giron, Colleen Keller, Natalie Seier, Cheyenne Tavares, Victor Htut, Julia Ward, Kyleigh Hillerud, Elizabeth Turano, Amanda Cicchetti, Maya Murarka

Guests: Kurt Daigle (UConnPIRG primary advisor)

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:02pm by Emily O'Hara (Chair)
- II. Introductions
- III. Updates
 - A. Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair) announces that last semester's campus organizer, Petra Favorite, resigned due to personal reasons. UConnPIRG will still receive support from ConnPIRG (e.g. Justin Landry - Trinity's PIRG organizer - will visit weekly, and Jim Leahy will provide value as a lobbyist in Connecticut's state house). This semester, Gagnon (Vice Chair) will oversee the Affordable Textbooks and Hunger and Homelessness campaigns, while O'Hara (Chair) will oversee the New Voters Project campaign and Kyleigh Hillerud will oversee the Zero Waste and 100% Renewable Energy campaigns.
- IV. Business
 - A. Approval of 1/27/20 Minutes

Maya Murarka enters the room at 7:15 pm.

 1. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the 1/27/20 minutes.
 2. Colleen Keller seconds.
 3. Motion passes unanimously (*Natalie Seier and Brian Garzon abstain*).
 - B. Sponsorship of Student Life Award
 1. O'Hara (Chair) says that UConnPIRG's sponsorship of a Student Life Award has been discussed tangentially. This could be a way to spend down the budget surplus, and UConnPIRG has been asked to sponsor an award.
 2. Kurt Daigle (UConnPIRG primary advisor) clarifies that UConnPIRG would sponsor the "Student Organizational Advocacy Award."
 3. O'Hara (Chair) notes that this award was established in 2005, and that any registered student organization (RSO) on any UConn campus can be nominated. While UConnPIRG would be ineligible to win this \$250 award, sponsorship would nevertheless provide good visibility and an opportunity to use funds to make a difference.
 4. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve UConnPIRG's sponsorship of UConn Student Life's "Student Organizational Advocacy Award" for \$250.
 5. Shafina Chowdhury seconds.
 6. Discussion

a) Elizabeth Turano asks if UConnPIRG will sponsor this award annually or only in 2020. O'Hara (Chair) confirms the latter.

7. Motion passes unanimously.

C. New Voters Project Valentine's Day Bulk Candy

Gagnon (Vice Chair) leaves the room at 7:21 pm.

1. Victor Htut announces that to account for timing-related issues with the shipping of the candy approved last week, he and co-coordinator Cheyenne Tavares have decided on a more generic alternative that can also be used for other campaigns. More specifically, there will be 66.7 ounces of Hershey's Kisses and 18 pounds of heart lollipops.
2. O'Hara (Chair) adds that this candy will be less wasteful.
3. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the purchase of New Voters Project Valentine's Day bulk candy for up to \$150 (\$23.99 for Hershey's Kisses and \$76.95 for heart lollipops, totaling \$100.94 before tax).
4. Chowdhury seconds.
5. Motion passes unanimously (*Gagnon (Vice Chair) abstains*).
6. Peyton Marie De Lorenzo Pease asks if the balloons approved last week will still be ordered. O'Hara (Chair) and Htut confirm this to be the case.

V. Announcements

A. O'Hara (Chair) asks Core members to take out their phones and confirm their attendance at - and invite their friends to - UConnPIRG's Spring 2020 kickoff on Wednesday, February 5 at 7 p.m. in SU 304 via its corresponding Facebook event page.

1. Hillerud concurs, adding that Core members should follow UConnPIRG on social media.

B. O'Hara (Chair) announces that there will be a phonebanking session tonight until 9 p.m. to bring more people to kickoff.

C. Keller announces that the recruitment drive will end officially on February 5, and that today UConnPIRG collected over 100 interest cards for the first time this semester.

Gagnon (Vice Chair) and Rachel Cormier (Treasurer) enter the room at 7:23 pm.

VI. Business (cont.)

A. Monthly Bills

1. O'Hara (Chair) says that UConnPIRG must pay its monthly bills for purchases that have been approved during Core meetings.
2. Cormier (Treasurer) lists the following expenses from November 2019, totaling \$751.83 (*note: the provider to which each charge is attributed is not clarified until the revote*):
 - a) UConn Catering for \$490,
 - b) Amazon for \$32.99,
 - c) Walmart for \$38.72,
 - d) Big Y for \$10.98,
 - e) Office Depot for \$17.99,
 - f) Amazon for \$23.97,
 - g) Amazon for \$21.31,

- h) Office Depot for \$5.68,
 - i) Telephone use for \$20.60, and
 - j) Adobe Suite software for \$89.59.
3. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the payment of UConnPIRG's November 2019 monthly bill for \$751.83.
 4. Murarka seconds.
 5. Motion passes unanimously.
 6. O'Hara (Chair) motions by unanimous consent to render the previous vote null and void.
 7. Motion passes unanimously.
 8. After Cormier (Treasurer) provides additional context (as described above), O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the payment of UConnPIRG's November 2019 monthly bill for \$751.83.
 9. Gagnon (Vice Chair) seconds.
 10. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm
Minutes submitted by Michael Katz (Secretary)