

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 20-22
Monday March 2nd, 2020, 7 PM
SU 310

Voting Members: Emily O'Hara (Chair), Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair), Maya Murarka (Treasurer), Michael Katz (Secretary), Victor Htut, Angelica Sistrunk, Elizabeth Turano, Rebecca Tripp, Venkata Patchigolla, Paul Verbo, Elizabeth Champeau, Shafina Chowdhury, Irene Soteriou, Brianna Barbeau, Chuck O'Coin, Maria Mejia-Giron, Dylan DeMoura, Simon Hua, Kyle Cyr, Erin McConnell, Chad Schroeder, Kyleigh Hillerud, Cheyenne Tavares, Colleen Keller, Abigail Coia, Ben Albee, Natalie Seier, Julia Ward

Non-Voting Members: Kevin Manniny, Nate Shaw, Tavian Jones, Jeremiah Walker, David Johnson, Vincent Monnaccio, Joseph Rappoccio, Adam Shoshani, Danielle Reynolds

Guests: Kurt Daigle (UConnPIRG primary advisor), Justin Landry (ConnPIRG campus organizer for Trinity College), Kat Morris (UCCO founder and president), Luke Anderson (UCCO vice president)

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:02pm by Emily O'Hara (Chair)
- II. Introductions
- III. Guest Presenters: UConn Collaborative Organizing (UCCO)
 - A. Kat Morris (UCCO founder and president) describes UCCO as a student organizing group that stresses interdisciplinary, intersectional action and fills in the gaps other groups have left open. Luke Anderson (UCCO vice president) discusses UCCO's accomplishments, including co-organizing last fall's Fridays for Future climate strike and running a workshop on environmental racism with the UConn NAACP.
 1. O'Hara (Chair) asks Morris (UCCO founder and president) and Anderson (UCCO vice president) how they sustain themselves and avoid burnout.
 - a) Morris (UCCO founder and president) says interorganizational collaboration has been helpful in alleviating some of the burden. She generally functions well under pressure as a detail-oriented person, but occasionally experiences dark moments. This Sunday's general body meeting will address mindfulness and meditation.
 - b) Anderson (UCCO vice president) says being conscientious and intentional with his life priorities has helped in the face of stress, and activism is about working to maintain oneself. The Benton Museum's Exhibit of Student Activism will host a Healing with Poetry event on March 12 from 5-7 p.m.
 - c) Morris (UCCO founder and president) adds that besides protests and other organizing movements, activism is also about community building and healing.
 2. Irene Soteriou asks how UCCO keeps track of everything that happens on campus.

- a) Morris (UCCO founder and president) considers what organizations would be interested in collaborating on certain projects, and she prioritizes preemptiveness over reactivity.
 - b) Anderson (UCCO vice president) adds that UCCO's general body consists of all kinds of students with various connections and ideas.
- 3. Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair) inquires about UCCO's priorities for the semester.
 - a) Morris (UCCO founder and president) says addressing mental health, healing through peaceful forms of activism, and community building are priorities. She will also prepare an organizational succession plan, as she is graduating this semester.
 - b) Anderson (UCCO vice president) aims to build past the divides between on-campus communities (e.g. UCCO had a meet-and-greet event before Mental Health Action Day).
- 4. Chuck O'Coin asks when UCCO's next general meeting will take place, to which Morris (UCCO founder and president) responds it will be on March 8 from 2-3 p.m. in SU 303.
- 5. O'Hara (Chair) asks about Morris (UCCO founder and president) and Anderson (UCCO vice president)'s post-graduation plans.
 - a) Anderson (UCCO vice president) hopes to do community-based work close to home and take a gap year before studying abroad again for his Master's degree.
 - b) Morris (UCCO founder and vice president) aims to complete her Master's program in the fall with an internship program. She hopes to do research abroad (e.g. Fullbright) and apply for a PhD.

IV. Updates

- A. Colleen Keller announces that USG passed legislation allowing ex officio senators to vote, effective next semester. She is working with Dylan DeMoura on a statement of support for the proposed statewide polystyrene ban.
- B. Gagnon (Vice Chair) discusses the ConnPIRG Youth Action Lobby Day, which will take place on March 11 at the State Capitol Building. Attendees will primarily lobby on the polystyrene bill. Gagnon (Vice Chair) displays a QR code for students to sign up to attend the lobby day.
 - 1. Rebecca Tripp asks if she can still lobby despite not being a member of Zero Waste. Gagnon (Vice Chair) says members of any campaign (or of none at all) can lobby. ConnPIRG will create project packets to pitch legislators on various issues.
 - 2. Keller inquires about when the lobby day will take place. Gagnon (Vice Chair) says it will be from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., with buses departing UConn at 9 or 9:15 a.m. and departing the Capitol Building at 2:15 or 2:30 p.m. She encourages those with scheduling conflicts to talk to her and their professors.
- C. Maya Murarka (Treasurer) says because she does not feel well-suited to train someone while she is still learning the treasurer's position, the treasurer's

assistant position will not be filled this semester. However, it will be open to applicants for next semester.

V. Campaign Updates

- A. Shafina Chowdhury announces that Affordable Textbooks will table tomorrow and Wednesday, and she distributes a sign-up sheet. There will also be a faculty luncheon on Thursday to provide more information on open-educational resources.
- B. DeMoura announces that the polystyrene bill passed through the Environmental Committee on Friday by a 20-8 vote, and that it will go to the commissioner's office for fiscal analysis. Zero Waste is planning for the lobby day and accompanying press event.
 1. Gagnon (Vice Chair) adds that Justin Landry (ConnPIRG campus organizer for Trinity College) and Kyleigh Hillerud put together "Foam Free CT" t-shirts for lobby day.
- C. Cheyenne Tavares announces that New Voters Project is putting together its absentee voter appreciation week.
- D. Ben Albee announces that 100% Renewable Energy appreciation week will take place from April 14-21. There is also a bill being raised for statewide college campuses to become more dependent upon renewable energy by 2050, and Albee is working with State Representative Gregg Haddad on it.
- E. Keller announces that Hunger & Homelessness is advocating for SNAP legislation. The next Husky Market food pantry will be on March 13 from 2:30-5:30 p.m. The campaign raised over \$60 in spare change from last week's fundraiser and is planning for its upcoming panel. Volunteers visited a soup kitchen last week and will do so again on March 13.

VI. Business

- A. Approval of 2/24/20 Minutes
 1. O'Hara motions to amend the 2/24/20 minutes to strike the vote on the 2/17/20 minutes, citing Chowdhury's seconding on a vote from which she later abstained.
 2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) seconds.
 3. Motion passes unanimously (*Erin McConnell and Brianna Barbeau abstain*).
 4. O'Hara (Chair) motions to reapprove the 2/17/20 minutes.
 5. Motion passes unanimously.
 6. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the amended 2/24/20 minutes.
 7. Elizabeth Turano seconds.
 8. Motion passes unanimously (*Keller, McConnell, Barbeau, Soteriou, Maria Mejia-Giron, and Elizabeth Champeau abstain*).
- B. Buses for Lobby Day
 1. DeMoura wants the most economically and environmentally feasible transportation for March 11's lobby day. He reached out to Community Outreach, and now he proposes three buses with fourteen people each for \$359.10 total, accounting for mileage and other expenses.

2. Gagnon (Vice Chair) asks if transportation is open to any undergraduate student, which DeMoura confirms.
 3. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$500 for lobby day transportation on March 11.
 4. Gagnon (Vice Chair) seconds.
 5. Motion passes unanimously.
- C. Printer Toner
1. O'Hara (Chair) notes that the office's color printer is running low on toner.
 2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the purchase of blue printer toner for up to \$100.
 3. McConnell seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
- D. Wadsworth - Social Event
1. Chad Schroeder says he is planning a social event at the Wadsworth art museum in Hartford. It provides free admission, but transportation expenses would need to be reimbursed (the museum is about 50 miles away from campus). Up to twenty students can tour the museum and discuss activism on April 4 at 1:30 p.m.
Gagnon (Vice Chair), Schroeder, Julia Ward, and Kyle Cyr leave the room at 7:58 p.m.
 2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$150 in travel reimbursements to Gagnon (Vice Chair), Schroeder, Ward, and Cyr for April 4's Wadsworth social event.
 3. Albee seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously (*Gagnon (Vice Chair), Schroeder, Ward, and Cyr recuse themselves*).
Gagnon (Vice Chair), Schroeder, Ward, and Cyr reenter the room at 8:00 p.m.
- E. Lucky Strike bowling
1. Schroeder says he is planning a social bowling trip at Lucky Strike Lanes this Friday at 8 p.m. for 15-17 students. The total cost would be \$170, accounting for shoe rentals and lane reservations.
Gagnon (Vice Chair) leaves the room at 8:02 p.m.
 2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$200 for March 6's Lucky Strike social bowling trip.
 3. Venkata Patchigolla seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously (*Gagnon (Vice Chair) recuses herself*).
Gagnon (Vice Chair) reenters the room at 8:02 p.m.
- F. Catering for Hunger & Homelessness
1. Keller wants to incentivize students to attend her campaign's panel event on April 2, which will take place during dinnertime, by providing food (and ideally china utensils would be provided to align with the organization's environmentally friendly initiatives). She anticipates forty

student attendees, for whom she would provide UConn Catering's chicken parmesan meal.

2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve catering for April 2's Hunger & Homelessness panel event for up to \$1,200.
3. Keller seconds.
4. Motion passes unanimously.

G. 100% Renewable Energy T-Shirts

1. Albee says his campaign has designed t-shirts to inform the public about 100% renewable energy. These will be distributed to students to incentivize them to sign up for the campaign's panel event later in the week.
2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the purchase of up to 500 100% renewable energy t-shirts (300 short-sleeved and 200 long-sleeved) for up to \$5,000.
3. Albee seconds.
4. Motion passes (*DeMoura dissents*).

H. December 2019 Monthly Bill

1. Murarka (Treasurer) lists the following expenses, totaling \$12,495.24:
 - a) \$56.25 and \$15 to the Student Union for November 19's Zero Waste film screening,
 - b) \$363 to Adventure Park Storrs for a member retention event,
 - c) \$530 to UConn Catering for November 12's mentorship meeting,
 - d) \$735 to UConn Catering for November 20's 100% Renewable Energy awareness event,
 - e) \$726 to UConn Catering for December 6's mentorship meeting,
 - f) \$32.99 refund from Amazon for Halloween candy,
 - g) \$207.37 and \$129.99 to (and a \$12.38 sales tax refund from) Insomnia Cookies for October 28-29's NVP table,
 - h) \$70 and \$70 for Sgt. Pepperoni pizza,
 - i) \$3,584 to Ad-America for UConnPIRG black long-sleeved t-shirts,
 - j) \$264.46 to Silver Screen Design for HuskyEngage lanyards,
 - k) \$2,015.28 to Silver Screen Design for H&H awareness week t-shirts,
 - l) \$342.48 to Amazon for November 19's Zero Waste film screening,
 - m) \$2,230 to Ad-America for UConnPIRG quarter zips,
 - n) \$14.12 to Amazon for six boxes of Kleenex,
 - o) \$69.57 to Amazon,
 - p) \$55.99 to Amazon for thirty boxes,
 - q) \$20.60 monthly telephone bill,
 - r) \$7.15, \$7.15, \$377.60, and \$453.60 to United Airlines/Sanditz Travel Management for O'Hara (Chair) and Tavares's trip to the Students Learn Students Vote (SLSV) summit,
 - s) \$118 to Apple for AppleCare, and
 - t) \$78 to Apple for iPad cases.
2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the December 2019 monthly bill.

3. Keller seconds.
4. Motion passes unanimously.

VII. Announcements

- A. O'Hara (Chair) issues a weekly warning to campaign coordinators who have not yet replied to Turano's email.
- B. O'Hara (Chair) announces that executive board elections are in three weeks, so any interested parties should send their name and NetID to kjd14007work@uconn.edu.
- C. O'Hara (Chair) encourages those interested in learning more about campaign selection for next semester to meet her after Core.
- D. O'Hara (Chair) asks that Core members fill out an online feedback form. She displays a link.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm

Minutes submitted by Michael Katz (Secretary)