

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 20-28
Monday April 20th, 2020, 7 PM
WebEx (remote location due to COVID-19 outbreak)

Voting Members: Emily O'Hara (Chair), Jessica Gagnon (Vice Chair), Maya Murarka (Treasurer), Michael Katz (Secretary), Rebecca Tripp, Dylan DeMoura, Shafina Chowdhury, Erin McConnell, Cheyenne Tavares, Kyleigh A Hillerud, Natalie Seier, Kyle Cyr, Chuck O'Coin, Colleen Keller, Ben Albee, Victor Htut, David Vallejo, Chadwick Schroeder, Venkata Patchigolla

Non-Voting Members: Conner Caridad

Guests: Jim Leahy (ConnPIRG lobbyist), Justin Landry (ConnPIRG campus organizer for Trinity College)

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:00pm by Colleen Keller (Chair-Elect)
- II. Introductions
- III. Campaign/E-Board Updates
 - A. Keller gives the Executive Board Update, as the elects are working with the outgoing officers and taking on more roles as they train. A campus organizer has been selected. Keller offers for members to come to E-Board office hours, which are located on the PIRG website.
 - B. Cheyenne Tavares gives the New Voters Project update. There is an opportunity to receive election updates through text. The CT Presidential Primary has been proposed. NVP is also working on staying organized through the summer while planning for the election. Tavares will be reaching out individually and would like members to give her ideas on how to get more voters.
 - C. Jessica Gagnon says that Zero Waste has finished research on sustainability at home. Zero Waste meetings have been moved to 100% meetings, as the two campaigns will be combining. Information on that has been sent out via email.
 - D. Ben Albee gives the 100% Renewable Energy Update. The Conference event went fantastically. Although it was not what it was originally planned to be on campus and a few people were unable to go, Albee says it was a success. Much of the discussion was on how students could improve UConn and work together. The conference also focused on intersectionality, how to be activists, and how all issues connect, which has inspired many. Albee adds that for more information, go to the 100% / Zero Waste meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, at 3pm.
 - E. Rebecca Tripp gives the Hunger and Homelessness campaign update. The campaign has been working on developing a website, working on a vision board, and planning for next year. Additionally, many communities are working on providing services, so be on the look for that if one needs any assistance.
 - F. Shafina Chowdhury says Affordable Textbooks has completed the first draft of the student survey and will be working on a survey for professors next meeting. The meeting with Kyleigh Hillerud went great. Upcoming campaign actions

include focusing on individual projects, and the goal for this semester is for all to be completed.

IV. Business

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Discussion

a) Michael Katz states that voting on the minutes has been neglected, as PIRG is not on campus.

2. Keller (Chair-Elect) motions to approve the following minutes by unanimous consent:

a) Approval of the Minutes from 3/9/2020

b) Approval of the Minutes from 3/23/2020

c) Approval of the Minutes from 3/30/2020

d) Approval of the Minutes from 4/6/2020

e) Approval of the Minutes from 4/13/2020

3. Motion passes unanimously.

V. Chapter Evaluation

A. Keller states that campus relations, leadership development, and visibility represent three of the foundations of PIRG.

B. Emily O'Hara expands on PIRG's campus relations. PIRG has won a stewardship award that directly relates to campus relations. This award was one of the four offered. O'Hara had planned to expand and create connections with many of the cultural centers as well as USG, Nutmeg and the Daily Campus. There has been a struggle with meeting with the president. O'Hara states one positive is with ResLife on allowing PIRG to sign voters up inside of dormitories. A meeting with OS on recycling was also conducted.

1. Gagnon adds it is really important to expand relationships with the cultural centers, as PIRG should be more inclusive and attempt to invite those to the discussion.

2. Dylan DeMoura discusses racism on campus and heightened activism. Although they helped with it, PIRG could have been a stronger voice on organizing those movements. PIRG can enhance their relations and intersectional intentions.

3. Albee says that something the conference discussed is being reciprocal and helping others with projects, building relationships as friends rather than separate organizations. Albee feels that leadership development is very good.

4. Natalie Seier sees that a strength of PIRG right now is training many members on campus relations and being able to make those relations. There should be movement away from leadership being in charge of all campus relations to members being in charge as well.

C. Keller transitions to leadership development. It seems there is an amazing amount of leadership development on campus.

1. Hillerud believes having students teach students in activist class and mentor leadership to be better at building connections with members than having nonstudents run them.

2. O'Hara feels that she has learned so much from mentorship this year, and sincerely thanks Gagnon and DeMoura.
3. Tavares agrees with O'Hara, as many leaders have been amazing at opening up opportunities for young leaders.
4. Gagnon states that it has been amazing to run the class and have such a stable group to come to the class, although it has fallen off as of COVID-19.
5. Albee sees that Gagnon is also getting ready those she trains to prepare future leaders as well.
6. Gagnon asks what else the chapter would like to learn.
 - a) O'Hara feels more accountability on mentors would be beneficial to allow members to be able to stay organized, and perhaps a mentor class.

D. Keller continues to the visibility pillar and opens the floor for discussion.

1. Seier nods to Hillerud's ability to brand PIRG as a collective. Seier also thinks that their merchandising has been consistent and impactful. She also feels that although posters are great, PIRG seems to have found more useful tactics.
2. Tavares agrees and commends those involved with visibility.
3. Tripp feels that the advertising and messaging during recruitment is the reason that they joined, and is excited for next year's recruitment drive.
4. DeMoura adds that visibility has been great, and PIRG can add more with a high-profile event(s) with speakers after the coronavirus is resolved.
5. O'Hara believes that the legs of the tripod are more of a braid, and they are all interconnected. PIRG has developed a following and should celebrate those that are aware of PIRG.
6. Seier remembers Election Day, as there was a lot of retweeting and election events are a huge way in which PIRG becomes known, as well as an easy service for students.
7. Tavares is excited to create visibility around ConnPIRG as a whole, which is something Hillerud has said she has wanted to improve on.
8. Hillerud thanks everyone. This has been what she has been working on since her first year at UConn, and feels that the Chapter's visibility is truly growing.

VI. Vision Boards

- A. Keller presents the vision board she has created by sharing her screen and describes it. Keller will be sending the vision board in the GroupMe.
- B. Maya Muraka suggests putting it on a cork board so PIRG can add to it, in which there is agreement.

VII. Announcements

- A. Cabinet Appointments (Announced by Keller)
 1. Tavares has been announced Office Manager.
 2. David Vallejo has been announced Treasurer's Assistant.
 3. Seier has been announced Retention Manager.
 4. Schroeder has been announced Social Chair.

5. Hillerud has been announced Communications Director.
- B. Husky Swipes Event
1. Tripp describes the event UConn is holding. Husky Swipes (Flex Passes) can be donated in an easy process.
- C. Chad Schroeder's Announcements
1. Chad Schroeder shares that he has put together a funding service document for others to understand their documentation and funding. Schroeder adds to email him for any questions.
 2. Schroeder states there will be a series of social events such as a virtual museum tour. More information will be sent out.
- D. Mentorship Meetings
1. Gagnon says DeMoura will be presenting, and the next meeting will feature a guest speaker.
- E. Documentation
1. O'Hara urges members to fill out the form from Schroeder. Any documentation is appreciated. Documentation will be voted on at the next core meeting. Talk to O'Hara during office hours if one has questions.
- F. Board Meeting
1. Hillerud announces there will be a state board meeting over the weekend. The official board meeting will include voting on the statewide campaign and funding. Michael Katz will send out an information email. Hillerud invites all members.
- G. FSU Re-Aff
1. Keller describes Fitchburg's Re-aff (Re-affirmation drive) in Massachusetts where the entire campus votes on whether or not the campus would like to offer the ability to provide funding for PIRG. Keller offers to put anyone in touch with Sam Gibb if they would like more information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Minutes submitted by Kyle Cyr (Secretary-Elect)