

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 20-33  
Monday June 8th, 2020, 7 PM  
WebEx (remote location due to COVID-19 outbreak)

Voting Members: Colleen Keller (Chair), Maya Murarka (Treasurer), Kyle Cyr (Secretary), Kyleigh Hillerud, Erin McConnell, Rebecca Tripp, Victor Hunt, Natalie Seier, Chad Schroeder, Cheyenne Tavares, David Vallejo, Shafina Chowdhury, Chuck O'Coin

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:04pm by Colleen Keller (Chair)
- II. Introductions
- III. Updates
  - A. Keller announces that documents continue to be completed despite difficulties because of Covid-19. Keller invites others to join in on biweekly leadership meetings.
  - B. Shafina Chowdhury discusses that monthly meetings will continue to take place for Affordable Textbooks and, who are continuing to plan for next semester.
  - C. Rebecca Tripp announces that Hunger and Homlessness continues to be working on graphics and will be discussing the intersection between H&H and race.
- IV. Business
  - A. January Monthly Bill
    1. Keller motions to approve the amount of \$1,505.10 for the monthly bill of January.
    2. Erin seconds.
    3. Motion passes unanimously.
  - B. February Monthly Bill
    1. Keller motions to approve the amount of \$1,114.68 for the monthly bill of February.
    2. Kyleigh Hillerud seconds.
    3. Motion passes unanimously.
  - C. March Monthly Bill
    1. Keller motions to approve the amount of \$4,638.89 for the monthly bill of March.
    2. Chowdhury seconds.
    3. Motion passes unanimously.
  - D. April Monthly Bill
    1. Keller motions to approve the amount of \$1,232.83 for the monthly bill of April.
    2. Hillerud seconds.
    3. Motion passes unanimously.
  - E. May Monthly Bill
    1. Keller motions to approve the amount of \$1,176.12 for the monthly bill of May.
    2. Kyle Cyr seconds.
    3. Motion passes unanimously.
  - F. Fall Fee Updates

1. UConn Tier III organizations have been asked to adjust needed fees for the next semester, keeping in mind we may or may not be on campus. Keller offers to keep the fee money needed as a \$5 waivable fee per semester (no change), regardless of the situation on campus because this fee is waivable. There is general agreement.
  2. Keller motions to approve the Fall Fee Update Chart for Fall 2020.
  3. Chuck O'Coin seconds.
  4. Motion passes unanimously
- V. Announcements / Conversation about what PIRG can do to help the Black Lives Matter Movement
- A. Keller provides context to the Black Lives Matter movement. PIRG has a lot of influence, and can be a resource and center of activism for the movement. PIRG has made a statement and reached out to the NAACP UConn Chapter and AACC to see how PIRG can help. Keller announces we will be helping with their fundraiser.
  - B. Hillerud shares the Public Interest Network donating page as well as discussing the UConn dissatisfaction with some of the statements and actions towards the movement. Hillerud suggests spreading information on what is going on, how to help, and sharing
  - C. Keller says that PIRG is not able to donate to any national/state organizations, as we are only able to donate to those that directly benefit UConn students.
  - D. Chad Schroeder shares a list of books on policing and discusses police brutality problems, but specifically problems with the idea of policing itself and examples of policing matters that are not helpful or just.
  - E. Tripp shares the importance of creating connections between poverty discrimination and race, which directly intersect with the H&H campaign. H&H will be holding a discussion on this intersection, and notes that it is important on how we shape our message.
  - F. Cyr shares a document addressing the arguments shaping Black Lives Matter with resources to help educate those against or confused about BLM.
  - G. Hillerud shares a document of classes that talk about these sociological issues.
  - H. Keller asks everyone to share information in the slack or GroupMe. Cyr adds he will make a Google Doc for sharing. Keller asks if anyone has any specific ideas for PIRG.
  - I. Natalie Seier addresses how many people are using this movement and momentum to show support and amplify messages, but is afraid that it could get stuck in lined awareness, and that we need to get past this point. Additionally, internal ideas of intersectionality in PIRG needs to be firmly addressed, such as PIRG representation, so we can start moving towards action and away from discussion. Keller agrees with Seier's idea of sharing information on how to contact elected officials. Seier, recognizing that some of these actions are dependent on being on campus, states that it would be great to share information on how to write a testimony as well, and getting people more involved.

- J. Cyr adds that the ideas from Seier revolve around giving to marginalized communities through resources, education, etc. PIRG can be activists by giving those who know and are ready to share their perspectives and be activists.
  - K. Chowdhury discusses ideas from the town hall and the idea of having PIRG give a class that would act as part of a larger course offered from town hall similar to the one-credit coronavirus class. Hillerud thinks it is a great idea and that PIRG should be a part of it.
  - L. Seier agrees, but is cautious of ensuring that those in the class are serious about the class, as the class may not be taken seriously if they are not.
  - M. Chowdhury discusses that many classes discuss intersectionality and this would be added to that, but PIRG needs to be sure it is not just another one of these classes. Seier adds that it also should not be lumped with alcohol.edu, as that is a program that is not really given thought by students and is done because it is required.
  - N. Maya Murarka talks on the complexity of racism and the deepness of it and that all of these facets need to be addressed.
  - O. Hillerud discusses the class, which is offered as a pre-requisite course, or having it connected to one's major.
  - P. Cyr adds that UConn professors discuss how the requirements of becoming a professor in terms of qualifications and experience are a form of systemic racism, and we could push UConn to change this.
  - Q. Seier adds that UConn should give more money, perhaps through a scholarship, to graduate students to give them a platform to fight against systemic racism.
  - R. Keller states that PIRG should be very able to offer those scholarships.
  - S. Keller asks how people of PIRG leadership can help.
  - T. Chowdhury asks if we could have a campaign dedicated to racial injustice. Keller confirms that this can happen for any topic, but national PIRG may not have that many resources.
  - U. Hillerud thinks it is a good idea, but we should also be sure to really understand and perfect intersectionality, especially in race, to be sure that we can address race issues within our campaign. Seier adds that we would seriously need to look at the representation in our chapter in order to do that. Keller agrees that we should focus on changing our current tactics on campaigns and giving voices to other activist groups.
  - V. Tripp brings up the idea of an intersectionality committee to hold campaigns accountable.
  - W. Schroeder shares that there is a petition of a letter calling to UConn on its militarization and relationship with the police.
- VI. Announcements
- A. Keller asks anyone who would like to be involved in bi-weekly meetings to email the chapter, and to share any social event ideas to Schroeder.
  - B. Hillerud asks everyone to text her any information that they would like to be shared on PIRG's social media.

- C. Cyr shares a quote on activism being an inch-wide, mile-deep rather than mile-wide, inch deep, and that it is good to have a focus area, but one needs to understand how that issue connects to everything.
- D. Schroeder shares the petition.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Minutes submitted by Kyle Cyr (Secretary)