

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 20-44
Monday November 9th, 2020, 7 PM
Zoom (remote location due to COVID-19 outbreak)

Voting Members: Colleen Keller (Chair), Dylan DeMoura (Vice Chair), Kyle Cyr (Secretary), Kyleigh Hillerud, Rebecca Tripp, Leah LePage, Mehdi Namazi, David Vallejo, Ben Albee, Cheyenne Tavares, Julia Ward, Elizabeth Moy

Guests: Kurt Daigle (UConnPIRG primary advisor)

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:04pm by Colleen Keller (Chair)
- II. Introductions
- III. Chapter Updates
 - A. Keller reports the executive update, which includes meeting with NVP and H&H for our planning sessions, sending along our CONNPIRG memo, activist class, a mentorship meeting this week, maintaining minutes and creating Zaps, and preparing orders for OER and H&H.
- IV. Campaign Updates
 - A. Cheyenne Tavares shares a few voting statistics as part of their NVP update. The campaign will be putting together a video to thank the UConn community, planning LTE's encouraging CT to have no-excuse absentee voting to be permanent, as well as thinking about the future of the campaign as Winter Break approaches.
 - B. Ben Albee explains two of Save the Earth's episodes for their new podcasts have been recorded and a logo has been made. USG will be voting on the Coke Contract Wednesday, and a list of resources for those affected by the climate crisis is being written.
 - C. Rebecca Tripp says that next week is Awareness Week for H&H. The No Freeze Shelter Donation Drive is underway, with donation boxes across campus. Direct monetary donations are also possible. Upcoming events include a Poverty In the Pandemic Educational Panel, and a movie screening on "*Growing up Poor In America.*" The next campaign meeting will work on these events and the donation drive, and Tripp asks interested members to attend.
 - D. Keller gives the Affordable Textbooks update. The interview with WHUS has been realised, and Shafina Chowdhury and USG have met with TEN on getting things set up in a legal sense. A meeting is also being scheduled with Maureen Armstrong to talk about the textbooks exchange program, and the campaign is outreaching to professors with their survey.
 - E. Leah LePage says that Public Health has been preparing for the H&H Pandemic Panel, as well as having a focus this week on researching and answering how to continue to be socially connected in cold weather and how to protect ourselves from the flu season.
- V. Critical Hope & Activism
 - A. Dylan DeMoura gives a presentation on critical hope, or being able to positively assess the environment using equity and justice in terms of a better future. Critical

hope in activism translates to being able to work and support one another, share hope, avoid burnouts, and to make it a continued effort. A presentation by Anjali Appadurai is played for members of the organization.

- B. Demoura opens the discussion to any immediate thoughts. Kyleigh Hillerud agrees with the presentation in terms of using hope in activism rather than fear, and that fear used to shame individuals has never worked. LePage adds that the mindsets we hold when accomplishing things affects how we complete a task and motivate ourselves.
- C. DeMoura continues with tips for sustainable activism, including focusing on one-on-one interactions and relationships and building local action.
- D. DeMoura concludes with asking how we can create a more hopeful, positive culture within UConnPIRG. Tripp says we should gage how we should conduct and value our activism in terms of what we want to accomplish over a long period of time to avoid burnout. Hillerud believes teh chapter should hold our members up and build sustainable relationships to build a community and increase the Chapter's longevity. DeMoura agrees, adding that members should lead by example and reach out to members to fulfill their positions after they leave the chapter.
- E. Keller thanks DeMoura for the presentation, and adds that anyone interested in continuing this conversation can contact them or talk about it in the Slack.

VI. Business

A. Minutes

- 1. Keller motions to approve the Core meeting minutes from Monday, November 2nd, 2020.
- 2. Hillerud seconds.
- 3. Motion passes unanimously.

B. Announcements

- 1. Keller explains that changes to our Bylaws and Constitution must be shared with the chapter with at least a week's advance. Keller explains that these changes will include making it possible to pay Campaign Coordinators, changing the language of the Executive Board, the campaign selection process, and mentions of board representatives and ConnPIRG students, as UConnPIRG is no longer affiliated. Keller shares the Bylaws with the Chapter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm
Minutes submitted by Kyle Cyr (Secretary)