

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 20-46  
Monday November 30th, 2020, 7 PM  
Zoom (remote location due to COVID-19 outbreak)

Voting Members: Colleen Keller (Chair), Dylan DeMoura (Vice Chair), Maya Murarka (Treasurer), Ben Albee, Chadwick Schroeder, Cheyenne Tavares, Elizabeth Moy, Erin McConnell, Julia Ward, Leah LePage, Natalie Seier, Rebecca Tripp, Maria Menoutis, Kyleigh Hillerud, Shafina Chowdhury

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:03pm by Colleen Keller (Chair)
- II. Introductions
- III. Chapter Updates
  - A. Colleen Keller reports that the executive team is implementing what has been voted on for our new Bylaws and Constitution, working on purchase requests and prepping for monthly bills, completing campaign check-ins and the mentorship program, and continuing to maintain the minutes and email.
- IV. Campaign Updates
  - A. Cheyenne Tavares states that NVP has picked a new logo this week and will be discussion future merchandise with the logo, as well as writing LTE's, keeping up with Urban Studies, corresponding with the Daily Campus on an NVP article, and meeting with Every Vote Counts to discuss legislative work for the next semester.
  - B. Ben Albee says Save the Earth has been working on putting the podcasts up, and has talked to the Talk Director from WHUS. The podcast should be up soon. The team is also emailing professors about extra credit for listening to the podcast and recording the fourth episode of the podcast this week. Other news includes the Student Services Committee releasing a Coke contract survey for feedback on demands from USG and PIRG and Noah Frank from USG is reaching out to regional campuses for feedback on the Coke survey.
  - C. Rebecca Tripp shares that H&H Awareness Week went well. The Daily Campus released an article incorporating feedback from the poverty simulator as the team moves forwards to plan events. The donation drive went well, with items dropped at the shelter, the Husky Market distribution is starting this week. This week's campaign meeting will include a campaign evaluation and planning for the future.
  - D. Shafina Chowdhury reports Affordable Textbooks is working on a meeting with administration concerning open educational resources, promoting graphics for the Textbook Exchange Network, and pushing back and starting promotion next semester. The team is also continuing to reach out and promote the survey on textbooks to professors.
  - E. Julia Ward and Leah LePage report that they have participated in the H&H panel, and the Vaccine advisory board has updates with the vaccine coming soon, although there is pushback from healthcare workers since the long term effects are unknown.
- V. Business
  - A. Minutes

1. Keller motions to approve the Core meeting minutes from Monday, November 16th, 2020.
2. Kyleigh Hillerud seconds.
3. Motion passes unanimously.

B. September Monthly Bills

1. Keller motions to approve the total of \$1,399.55 for the Monthly Bill of September.
2. Hillerud seconds.
3. Natalie Seier abstains.
4. Motion passes unanimously.

C. October Monthly Bills

1. Keller motions to approve the total of \$2,283.54 for the Monthly Bill of October.
2. Chowdhury seconds.
3. Motion passes unanimously.

VI. Campaign Selection

A. Tavares proposes a campaign for NVP, with a focus on voting reform, early voting, and making mail in voting accessible regardless of one's circumstances. Action will include talking about more states and their voting restrictions with out of state students, streamlining the voting process to as many students as possible, and creating a positive voting environment through providing resources for students and who they are, collaborating with legislators, building UConnPIRG's coalition, and promoting crucial discussion topics.

1. Colleen Keller motions to approve to run the New Voters Project for Spring 2021.
2. Hillerud seconds.
3. Motion passes unanimously.

B. LePage proposes a campaign for Public Health. The focus problem will remain Covid-19, with the campaign trying to streamline the spread of information; prioritize info through social media and grassroots action; empower legislative actions and target legislators; and build a statewide coalition with other groups.

1. Colleen Keller motions to approve to run the Public Health Campaign for Spring 2021.
2. Dylan DeMoura seconds.
3. Motion Passes unanimously.

C. Tripp proposes a campaign for Hunger & Homelessness. They state that students more than ever are experiencing financial hardship and insecurity. The campaign will focus on education, service, and advocacy, with actions such as: supporting actionable data driven solutions; adding a new section of a commitment to intersectionality; using Visibility for next semester with virtual organizing; developing and expanding Husky Market to more students; working with the president's Committee for Sustainability and Food Insecurity; working with more groups on campus like CCC and more; rebuilding UCAFE Coalition moving forward; working with administration to make things more successful for students no matter their financial status; prepping for legislative session, specifically

planning work on SNAP. Additionally, the proposal will continue UConnPIRG's relationship with End hunger CT in terms of legislative work.

1. Colleen Keller motions to approve to run the Hunger & Homlessness Campaign for Spring 2021.
2. LePage seconds.
3. Motion Passes unanimously

D. Albee proposes a campaign for Save the Earth. The campaign will focus on incorporating intersectionality and collaboration into all forms of action and process. The podcast will continue to be run and be made more professional. Legislative work will target the general assembly. Specific action includes continued work on the Coke contract; planning to work with the Spring Valley student farms; reaching out to environmental lobbying groups; and doing more giveaways with merchandise.

1. Keller motions to approve to run the Save The Earth Campaign for Spring 2021.
2. Ward Seconds.
3. Motion Passes unanimously.

E. Chowdhury proposes a campaign for Affordable Textbooks. College textbooks and learning materials are expensive. In the short term, the campaign will get a textbook price transparency website up and get the Textbook Exchange Network up and running. In the long term, the campaign will have all classes use OER for their class materials, work with the student government to plan to work more with the University Senate to accomplish both short and long term action, and work more with media.

F. Keller motions to approve to run the Affordable Textbooks Campaign for Spring 2021.

G. Albee seconds.

H. Motion Passes unanimously.

#### VII. Discussion, Black at UConn Post

A. Keller shares that the Thursday before break, the leadership team was made aware of a racial incident that happened in the chapter last year. This was made aware to the team through a Black at uconn post, with no names mentioned in the post we have so far, so the Chapter has been unable to take any disciplinary action. With several questions coming up regarding UConnPIRG, the Chapter released a response pertaining to the incident, poverty simulator, and more about how the organization works as a Tier-III regarding funding and other operations.

B. Hillerud shares that anyone with questions can come to the office hours of those in leadership to discuss more.

#### VIII. Announcements

A. Keller announces the final Core will be next week, with snaps and claps for the end of the semester celebration, and to fill out the form.

B. Seier says that they are prepping for the Recruitment Drive, so look out for upcoming information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Minutes taken by Kyleigh Hillerud  
Minutes submitted by Kyle Cyr (Secretary)