

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 21-1  
Monday January 25th, 2021, 7 PM  
Zoom (remote location due to COVID-19 outbreak)

Voting Members: Colleen Keller (Chair), Dylan DeMoura (Vice Chair), Erin McConnell (Secretary), Maya Murarka (Treasurer), Kyleigh Hillerud, Shafina Chowdhury, Rebecca Tripp, Leah LePage, Natalie Seier, Benjamin Albee, Brian Garzon, Nia Moore, Kyle Cyr, David Vallejo

Non Voting Members: Gianella Anyosa

Guests: Kurt Daigle (UConnPIRG primary advisor)

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:01pm by Colleen Keller (Chair)
- II. Introductions
- III. Chapter Updates
  - A. Keller shares that the Executive Board hosted their first leadership/staff meeting to plan the semester and prepare for future Core meetings. They also have been reaching out to speakers for Kickoff, hosted the Budget Forum, and approved \$250 for the Student Life Awards Sponsorship. Upcoming action includes prepping for next week's Core, working on the SASFAC budget process with the Business Office, and looking into working with graduate students.
  - B. Benjamin Albee gives the Ex-Officio update. They went to the first Caucus of the semester where they discussed Senate community building and initiatives for the semester. Subcommittees and task forces include: Sexual Health & Wellness, Transportation & Recreation, Wellbeing & Safety, Food Insecurity, and Sustainability. Upcoming action includes attending the first Senate of the semester next week.
- IV. Campaign Updates
  - A. Albee gives the Save the Earth campaign update. They have started legislative research and bill tracking, are working with USG's Sustainability Subcommittee and other groups on lobbying, pouring rights contract, and UConn divestment. Podcast episodes from last semester will be released next week. Upcoming action includes planning their first podcast with EcoGarden and BAILE leaders, and following up on several pieces of legislation.
  - B. Rebecca Tripp gives the Hunger & Homelessness update. They have had individual meetings for individual projects, scheduled the Food Access & Justice Panel, and updated their website to make it more user friendly. Upcoming action includes developing and expanding the Husky Market program, working with the Planting Our Roots Initiative, implementing service projects, and preparing for a virtual Pandemic Relief Lobby Day.
  - C. Leah LePage gives the Public Health update. They met with the Vaccine Advisory Committee about vaccination updates in the state, went over updates from the Governor's Office and the Department of Public Health. Additionally, the campaign discussed outreach and potential forums and PSAs. Upcoming action includes recruitment, putting together videos about vaccinations, researching for

vaccine infographics, and contacting campus branches and other state universities regarding campus life during COVID-19.

- D. Shafina Chowdhury gives the Affordable Textbooks update. They have been working with USG on the Textbook Exchange Network (TEN), which has 79 books registered in its pre-sell form, and a program proposed by the UConn Bookstore. Additionally, they worked on their semester plan and outreach to campaign members. Upcoming action includes getting the TEN website demo, deciding on storage space for TEN, and sending the textbook price survey to professors.
- E. Keller gives the Women's Campaign update. A biography has been added to the website describing the campaign. Upcoming action includes creating a logo for the campaign, recruiting members, and planning steps and outreach for coalitions. Please send Sasha Goldblatt logo designs.
- V. Activity: Break Out Groups - Why are we here?
  - A. Members split into break out groups to talk about why they joined PIRG. LePage shared that their group discussed PIRG's focus on passion for the issues they work on. Most groups discussed various topics and bonded.
- VI. Business
  - A. Minutes
    1. Keller motions to approve the Core meeting minutes from Monday, January 11th, 2021.
    2. Kyleigh Hillerud seconds.
    3. Motion passes unanimously.
      - a) Nia Moore, Maya Murarka, Benjamin Albee, and Brian Garzon abstain.
- VII. Announcements/Wrap Up
  - A. Erin McConnell announces they are finalizing the PIRG Google Calendar, which will be sent to members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Minutes submitted by Erin McConnell (Secretary)