

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 21-2  
Monday February 1st, 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, David Vallejo, Gianella Anyosa, Julia Ward

Non Voting Members: Ciarra McKenzie, Emily Lopez, Kaleigh Davis, Mark Frederiksen, Nick Coelho, Tahera Hoque

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:03pm by Colleen Keller (Chair)
- II. Introductions
- III. Chapter Updates
  - A. Maya Murarka shares that Keller has followed up with speakers for Kickoff, planned meetings for this week, and prepared the SFAC Fact Sheet and Questionnaire. Murarka has worked on the budget. Erin McConnell has worked on emails for the Recruitment Drive, figured out the problem with Zapier and the Google Form/Google Calendar, taken minutes, and managed the UConn contact roster. Dylan DeMoura has met with campaign coordinators to catch up on campaigns and Kickoff speeches, planned for activist class, and prepared for the semester. Upcoming action includes office hours, and preparing for next week's Core meeting.
  - B. Benjamin Albee gives the Ex-Officio update. The Academic Affairs Committee is collaborating on the Textbook Exchange Network (TEN) with the Affordable Textbooks campaign. The Senate passed "A Statement Denouncing the Capitol Riots and White Supremacy," which the USG President vetoed. A committee has quickly been put together to overturn the veto at the emergency Senate next Wednesday at 6:30pm. The Senate also passed "A Statement Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis in the State of Connecticut," and "A SMART TABLE Act", which requires more breaks during Senate meetings. USG is also pursuing mental health initiatives, such as Talkspace, which provides UConn students with access to virtual counselors and therapists 24/7. Upcoming action includes the emergency Senate with the veto override vote on Wednesday at 6:30, and the Justice Now Initiative, which includes various speakers over the month of February.
- IV. Campaign Updates
  - A. Albee gives the Save the Earth campaign update. In their legislative research, they have added 10+ bills to their environmental bill watchlist, and worked with USG's State Affairs Subcommittee to reach out to legislators directly to demand more intersectional bills. Last semester's podcast blog posts have been submitted, and they should be up this week. They have begun the Phase Out Plastic Initiative, and worked on the Recruitment Drive and building the team for an effective semester. Upcoming action includes the Food Access & Justice Panel on Thursday at 6pm, and a tentative first campaign meeting this Wednesday at 3pm.

- B. Rebecca Tripp gives the Hunger & Homelessness update. They have been planning for Husky Market, and identified key bills for lobbying related to food insecurity, expanded unemployment benefits, medical care for low-income immigrants, mortgage relief, and equalizing healthcare opportunities. Upcoming action includes the Food Access & Justice Panel on Thursday at 6pm, which is an Honors event, and Husky Market and syllabi work with USG.
  - C. Leah LePage gives the Public Health update. They have prepared for upcoming infographic and online events, caught up with past interns, and have looked at the future of the campaign. They also have updates from the Vaccine Advisory Committee, including the fact that over 300,000 doses of the coronavirus vaccine have gone out, and that number is rising. Upcoming action includes a form going out this week for Public Health interest.
  - D. Shafina Chowdhury gives the Affordable Textbooks update. They have been working with USG on TEN, which includes finalizing a storage space for the textbooks and demoing the website. They have also been helping with the Recruitment Drive. Upcoming action includes deciding on a storage space, working on professor email data, deciding on a campaign meeting time, and planning for Open Educational Resources (OER) Week.
  - E. Keller shares that there are no big updates for the Women's Campaign as of now. Upcoming action includes finalizing a logo for the campaign.
- V. Activity: Relational Phonebanking & Social Media Blasts
- A. Everyone spends 10 minutes texting some of their friends about Kickoff, following UConnPIRG on all social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), and blasting the Kickoff graphics on their own social media.
- VI. Business
- A. Minutes
    1. Keller motions to approve the Core meeting minutes from Monday, January 25th, 2021.
    2. Albee seconds.
    3. Motion passes unanimously.
      - a) Julia Ward abstains.
  - B. Sign-On to Stop New Hartford's Water Privatization by Eversource
    1. Keller motions to approve signing-on to stop New Hartford's water privatization by Eversource.
    2. Kyleigh Hillerud seconds.
    3. Motion passes unanimously.
- VII. Announcements/Wrap Up
- A. Keller announces that next week will be the presentation of SFAC documents by Murarka and David Vallejo.
  - B. Tripp announces that their campaign will be hosting a Food Access & Justice Panel this Thursday at 6pm.
  - C. Ward announces that anyone interested in doing legislative work should add themselves to the legislative channel in the Slack and fill out the Doodle Poll to figure out a meeting time.

- D. Natalie Seier announces that leadership/staff should stay on the call after we adjourn.
- E. Keller announces that everyone should come to Kickoff on Wednesday at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Minutes submitted by Erin McConnell (Secretary)