

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 21-14
Monday June 14th, 2021, 7 PM
Zoom (remote location due to COVID-19 outbreak)

Voting Members: Natalie Seier (Chair), Rebecca Tripp (Vice Chair), Monet Paredes (Secretary), Sasha Goldblatt, Nia Moore, Mehdi Namazi, Gianella Anyosa, Srimayi Chaturvedula, David Vallejo

Non-Voting Members: Rachael Allegakoen, Areej Sayeed, Esai, Vazquez-Marentes, Jessica Roberts

Guests: Krista O'Brien (Advisor)

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:03pm by Natalie Seier (Chair)
- II. Introductions
- III. Organizational Overview
 - A. Seier shares the accomplishments of the organization in the past few years, the structure of the leadership including the executive board, cabinet and new staff positions, and a brief overview of the rebanding from UConnPIRG to UConn Praxis.
- IV. Executive Board Updates
 - A. Seier shares their role as Chair. They have been working closely with Student Activities and Trustee Org Support, hiring staff/conducting interviews and doing campus relations work.
 - B. Rebecca Tripp shares their role as Vice Chair. They have also been working on hiring, hosting advisory sessions for campaigns and organizing chapter trainings.
 - C. Seier shares the Treasurer's update.
 - D. Monet Paredes shares their role as Secretary. They have been working on hiring with the rest of the executive board, updating UContact and the calendar as well as sending out chapter email updates.
- V. Business
 - A. Minutes
 1. Seier motions to approve the Core meeting minutes from Monday, April 26th, 2021.
 2. Tripp Seconds.
 3. Rachael Allegakoen, Areej Sayeed, Esai, Vazquez-Marentes and Jessica Roberts, Nia Moore abstain.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
 - B. Campaigns
 1. Nia Moore proposes an Affordable Textbook campaign. They express student concerns about the stress of paying for textbooks on top of other expenses. The campaign's short term goals would be proposing the textbook exchange network and creating an in person textbook popup shop. They want price transparency and to focus on Teacher's Assistants who grade work from textbooks. The campaign would work with faculty

and then university and other organizations to gain student support. The goals aim to alleviate pressure by shifting power from big publishers to students.

- a) Seier motions to approve the Affordable Textbooks Campaign as proposed by Nia Moore for the Fall 2021 semester.
 - b) Tripp Seconds.
 - c) Motion passes unanimously.
2. Srimayi Chaturvedula proposes a Hunger and Homelessness campaign. They explain the accomplishments of the campaign the past year. A focus of the campaign is addressing the impact of COVID-19 on people. A global perspective will be included. Top priorities would be a return to service and be on the ground through in-person donation drives. They will also focus on coalition building to amplify the impact of the campaign while continuously keeping diversity in mind..
- a) Seier motion to approve the Hunger and Homelessness Campaign as proposed by Srimayi Chaturvedula for the Fall 2021 semester.
 - b) Tripp seconds.
 - c) Rachael Allegakoen, Areej Sayeed, Esai, Vazquez-Marentes and Jessica Roberts abstain.
 - d) Motion passes unanimously.
3. Medhi Namazi proposes a Sustainable Skies campaign to address energy and material waste. They share $\frac{2}{3}$ of energy used as rejected energy. The campaign will create a net zero carbon and plastic waste initiative that will encourage alternative ways to use plastic that is already made, expand the plastic bag ban and reduce single use plastics. They plan to work with a Zero Waste campaign to reduce food waste. This would be done through education and legislative campaigning as well as continuing a podcast. They propose various initiatives to address energy and plastic waste.
- a) Seier motions to approve the Sustainable Skies Campaign as proposed by Mehdi Namazi for the Fall 2021 semester.
 - b) Paredes seconds.
 - c) Rachael Allegakoen, Areej Sayeed, Esai, Vazquez-Marentes and Jessica Roberts abstain.
 - d) Motion passed unanimously.
4. Sasha Goldblatt proposes the Women's Rights Campaign. The campaign tackles the various areas where women are discriminated against. The goal is to educate and advocate for women. There is a strong emphasis on intersectionality including people with and without uteruses. The campaign will also attempt to be as sustainable as possible. They will work to distribute menstrual products to people who need them across campus. Grassroots and lobbying tactics will also be used to contribute to impact. They also will work with other organizations across campus.
- a) Seier motions to approve the Women's Rights Campaign as proposed by Sasha Goldblatt for the Fall 2021 semester.

- b) Tripp seconds.
 - c) Rachael Allegakoen, Areej Sayeed, Esai, Vazquez-Marentes and Jessica Roberts abstain.
 - d) Motion passes unanimously.
5. Jessica Roberst proposes a Zero Waste Campaign. They suggest a compostable system for the UConn Dining halls as well as finding ways to limit food waste. Work with a company that takes food that is not wanted in stores and brings them to places they are food insecure. They also would like to put compostable systems in residential halls as well as dining halls, implement Greenpeace, Host educational events and workshops to teach students about the process, promote reusable coffee mugs and work with the Office of Sustainability Zero Waste committee and the School of Agriculture to compost.
- a) Seier motions to approve the Zero Waste Campaign as proposed by Jessica Roberts for the Fall 2021 semester.
 - b) Paredes seconds.
 - c) Rachael Allegakoen, Areej Sayeed, Esai, Vazquez-Marentes and Jessica Roberts abstain.
 - d) Motion passes unanimously.

VI. Activity

- A. Members of Core participate in a Kahoot about the history of UConnPIRG and its current leadership to increase bonding among the chapter.

VII. Announcements/Wrap Up

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Minutes submitted by Monet Paredes (Secretary)