73-55

See 73-44

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE STATE COLLEGES
1280 ASYLUM AVENUE HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105

RESOLUTION

concerning

Student Referendum
at
Central Connecticut State College
in support of
the
Establishment of a Chapter
of the
Connecticut Public Interest Research Group
at
Central Connecticut State College

October 5, 1973

WHEREAS, A majority of the undergraduate students at Central Connecticut State College have petitioned the Trustees to arrange for the collection of voluntary contributions from undergraduate students for the support of the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (CONNPIRG); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the President of Central Connecticut State College is requested to arrange for the collection of such voluntary contributions on his campus subject to the provisions contained in the addendum to this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That such collections be made at the time fees are collected for each semester and that if fewer than one half the total number of undergraduate students make such voluntary contributions in any semester the collections shall cease and shall not again be made without the approval of this Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, That moneys collected from the voluntary contributions shall be used first to compensate the College for the cost of collection and that the sum in excess of such cost shall be made available to CONNPIRG.

***

Addendum to the Resolution
Concerning the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group

A separate bill will be presented to students each semester listing the CONNPIRG fee. This bill will indicate the following: "Voluntary contribution to CONNPIRG - $2.00." An explanation accompanying the bill shall state what CONNPIRG is.

The separate bill for CONNPIRG will be presented to students at the same time with all other bills for tuition and fees.

10/1/73

3

file
Rec'd

April 15, 1974

Mr. Steven K. Wisensale
Director, ConnPIRG
Post Office Box 1571
Hartford, Connecticut 06101

Dear Mr. Wisensale:

Mrs. Niejadlik has asked me to respond in her behalf to your letter of April 9. I have talked with Dr. James. Neither he nor I can recall any understanding that we and Dr. Robinson were to meet with you and with Mr. Szczepanik. Certainly something was said that left you with the impression that such a meeting would take place. I can only say that we are sorry that this misunderstanding arose.

You were invited to speak at the meeting of the Planning Committee, and you did so. The Board members present listened carefully to what you said. This was the occasion on which you were given the opportunity to state your views. The Trustees reacted favorably to what your organization has done; however, they do not believe that they should become a collection agency for any organization no matter how worthy it may be. This is the reason for their decision.

Mrs. Niejadlik's feeling is that the Board has studied your proposal and has reacted to it. She considers that the matter is now closed.

Yours very truly,

James A. Frost
Executive Secretary

JAF/b

cc: Mrs. Niejadlik
Dr. Robinson
President James
Mr. Szczepanik

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 1571
Hartford, Connecticut 06101

Office: 57 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06105
Phone (203) 525-9326

April 9, 1974

Mrs. Bernice C. Niejadlik
Alexander Lake
Danielson, Conn. 06239

Dear Mrs. Niejadlik:

I am indeed sorry you didn't give me permission to speak before the Board of Trustees on Friday, the 5th. For me to have stood up and presented what ConnPIRG has done on the campus would have been for me to recognize and accept the resolution which had just been approved. Such action on my part would have run counter to the grain of logic and my personal conscience.

As you recall, the agreement made at the previous meeting (March 28th) was for Hank Szczepanik and I to meet with Dr. Robinson, President James and Dr. Frost to discuss the matter of ConnPIRG funding. Both Dr. Robinson and President James told me personally that they would contact Hank and I to establish a definite meeting date. We were never contacted and the resolution was drawn up without consulting us.

Because it was rather obvious that you were not aware of the circumstances under which the resolution was written, I simply wanted to take this opportunity to bring this information to your attention. Now that you are cognizant of my situation, I am sure you will better understand my motives on Friday and, also, you will undoubtedly look upon the resolution in a different light. Considering the outstanding character and the high standards of Board members, I'm sure this misunderstanding can be rectified and the resolution be reconsidered. Thank you very much for your kind and sincere consideration in this matter.

I am sincerely,

Steve Wisensale

Steven K. Wisensale
Director - ConnPIRG

October 16, 1973

Dr. F. Don James
President
Central Connecticut State College
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, Connecticut 06050

Dear Dr. James:

Enclosed for your records are copies of the Resolution and Addendum regarding Connecticut Public Interest Research Group which were approved by the Board of Trustees in regular session on October 5, 1973.

Sincerely,

James A. Frost
Executive Secretary

JAF/b

enclosure

cc: Miss Susan Chaffee - encl.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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10/1/73

THOMAS J. MESKILL
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HARTFORD

October 12, 1973

attach to Report in Volume I

Dr. James A. Frost
Executive Secretary
Board of Trustees for the
State Colleges
1280 Asylum Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Dear Jim:

Thank you for your letter of October 10. I very much appreciate your bringing this issue regarding the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group to my attention.

This office has been involved with this group at the University of Connecticut, and I am pleased to have this background information.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Stuart A. Smith (mj)

STUART A. SMITH
Chief Administrative Aide

SAS:mrs

October 10, 1973

Mr. Stuart Smith
Administrative Assistant
Governor's Office
State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Stuart:

You may be asked about Central Connecticut State College's relation to the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group. Consequently, I send you the enclosed resolution passed by the Trustees at their last meeting. I believe you will find it to be self-explanatory but if you have questions I will be glad to respond to them.

Cordially,

James A. Frost
Executive Secretary

JAF/b

enclosure

Code 1.01, 1.02

Mr. Bruce Hill
Executive Assistant
Company, Inc.
123 Central
Anytown, Anystate

Dear Bruce:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning State Code 1.01 and 1.02 regarding [illegible]. Enclosed please find [illegible] you requested. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Ryan
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

FORM PUR STO 201

INTERDEPARTMENT MAIL

DATE September 18, 1973

TO President F. Don James — DEPARTMENT

FROM C.A.Clow, Dean C.A. Clow — DEPARTMENT Administrative Affairs

SUBJECT CONNPIRG fees

Our present Computer based system of billing is predicated upon a positive bill--that is the total amount due is printed and punched on the billing card. This card then becomes the input document to the computer for preparing the cash book which is tied in with the deposit slips and becomes the official audit trail for cash accountability.

If we modify our system and provide for the add-on option of the CONNPIRG Fee we will be required to reproduce at least 3700 billing cards since at least 50% of the undergraduate student body must participate in order for the program to continue. This procedure is very time consuming and expensive and can lead to many errors and reduce cash accountability. Cashiering is an operation that requires the same personnel who are familiar with state procedures relative to handling cash. Cash control is lost when cashiering is done by individuals unfamiliar with the procedures mandated for handling cash. Any breakdown in maintaining accountability for cash will lead to many problems with State Officials.

Our present system can work and produce a separate CONNPIRG billing card with a minimal expenditure and we can still maintain tight cash controls.

	LAST	FIRST			
STUDENT NO.	STUDENT NAME			TYPE	SEQUENCE NO.
STATE COLLEGE FEE	TUITION	DORM OR APT.	FOOD	STUDENT ACTIVITY	GENERAL FEE	GRADUATION

KINDLY REMIT THIS AMOUNT

CASHIER'S OFFICE

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE

BILLING CARD

YOUR CHECK IS YOUR RECEIPT

CCSC-136 (1/72)

STUDENT NUMBER	SEX	NAME LAST	FIRST	MI	SEM. CODE	ST. COL. STUDENT	TUITION	DORM / APT.	FOOD	STUD. ACT.	COL. GEN.	GRADUATION	TOTAL	SEN		TYP	SEQUENCE NUMBER	ACT	CC
1 2 3 4 5	6	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	26	27	28	29 30 31 32 33	34 35 36 37 38	39 40 41 42 43	44 45 46 47 48	49 50 51 52	53 54 55 56	57 58 59 60	61 62 63 64 65 66	67	68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75	76	77	78	79 80

DD M-11983-R1

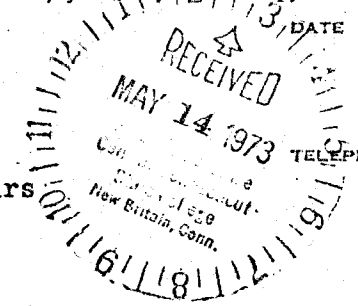
INTERDEPARTMENT MESSAGE
STO 201 2-69

SAVE TIME: *Handwritten messages are acceptable.*
Use carbon if you really need a copy.

for your file

TO Dr. F. Don James AGENCY President DATE 14 May 1973

FROM R. L. Judd, Dean AGENCY Student Affairs TELEPHONE 210



SUBJECT Attoney General's letter 1 May 1973, re: Conn Pirg

I recommend that further clarification from the Attorney General be requested. It appears to me that Mr. Hill's ruling has not fully responded to questions raised in your letter of 19 April.

1. What specific statutory authority allows for The Board of Trustees to serve as a "mere conduit for the (collection) of funds"? It is my understanding that without express statutory authority no agency can collect funds. As an example, specific authority is granted to the Comptroller and the State to deduct organization dues, credit union savings, and United Fund contributions, c.f. Sec. 5-260, 5-261, and 5-262, Conn. General Statutes.

2. Can it be shown that the use of the College's billing procedures may be utilized for the collection of a fee, even if voluntary, and is such authority vested in the Board under Sec. 10-109, & 10-109B, (C.G.S.) to act on a matter which is not, in my opinion, related to the Board's legal responsibility or interest in the affairs of students as students in the State College system?

3. In the collection of such funds, which are not "state", what bonding provisions will be in effect for those involved?

4. While not a legal question per se, what policy parameters will the Board institute to determine which non-college affiliated/ approved organizations will be allowed to utilize college billing and become "a mere conduit" for collecting dues, fees, and the like?

R.L.J.

RLJ/mm

SAVE TIME: *If convenient, handwrite reply to sender on this same sheet.*

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

ROBERT K. KILLIAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
STORRS CONNECTICUT

~~XXX-XXXX~~
486-4241

May 1, 1973

Dr. F. Don James, President
Central Connecticut State College
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, Connecticut 06050

Dear President James:

Attorney General Killian has referred your letter of April 19, 1973 regarding CONNPIRG to me for reply. The proposal made by CONNPIRG to the University of Connecticut is that the $2.00 fee would be assessed only on those students specifically agreeing to it. If this proposal is accepted by the Trustees, the University would be a mere conduit for the funds. Accordingly, the questions you raise, which are implicit in a refund procedure, are not present.

Very truly,

Robert K. Killian
Attorney General

By
John G. Hill, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

JGH:mkv

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE
New Britain, Connecticut

Office of the President

April 19, 1973

The Honorable Robert W. Killian
Attorney General, State of Connecticut
30 Trinity Street
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Killian:

I was most interested to note in the Public Press the other day that the University of Connecticut is seeking an official ruling on the request of the Connecticut Public Information Research Group to be the recipients of monies collected from the students at the University. Though we have not had such an official request from this group here at Central as yet, there is a great deal of interest on our campus and no doubt, a specific request will be forthcoming in the near future.

Accordingly, I am taking the liberty of summarizing some of the questions we have posed, and though this letter is not to request an official ruling from you regarding such a proposal on our campus, I am taking the liberty of assuming that some of our concerns may be of interest to you in view of the specific request from the University of Connecticut.

It is our understanding that a fee in the amount of $2 per student per semester will be requested to fund the activities of the Connecticut Public Information Research Group. If such funding is requested to be added to the Student Activity Fee, we would raise the following specific questions:

Since the organization will be acting outside the scope of the authority of the College and the Board of Trustees, can such a fee be legally required of students without the Board exercising ultimate authority over it? It is my understanding that this group would have a completely separate Board to control these funds without any control being exercised either by the Board of Trustees of the State Colleges or the administration of the College. We believe serious question would need to be raised in terms of the Board's statutory authority, mandated under section 10-109B, as to whether the Board could relieve itself of said responsibility in ordering a collection of fees.

Dean Judd, Dean of Student Affairs at Central Connecticut State College, in researching this matter, has indicated that he feels bearing case law on this matter may be found in a New York case (Stringer V. Gould - 64 Misc. 2D 89, 314 NYS 2d 309 (Superior Court, Albany County, 1970) in which the court made clear that the expenditures of student activity fees and other fees under the control of the Board are the responsibility of the Board, the final responsibility of which cannot be delegated to others.

With regard to a previous case that came to our attention here at Central, we requested an official ruling of you which you issued on January 20, 1971 in regard to the funding of a non-student organization. Your ruling was in regard to Section 4-52 of the General Statutes which indicate that student activity funds shall be under the supervision of the administrative head of the Institution, and your ruling indicated "that the funds may be used only for the benefit of students at Central Connecticut State College and that the College administration is charged with supervisory responsibility which includes the determination that any programs receiving support from such funds, are in fact for the benefit of the students." We are deeply concerned that the activities of CONNPIRG do not meet the test of responding to the needs of students as related to the educational mission of the Institution.

We further are concerned with a clarification of the corporate status and structure of CONNPIRG, especially in its relationship to the State Colleges. The question immediately arises as to whether such a corporation can exist and be funded by action of a State agency, in this case, the Board of Trustees for the State Colleges.

A further concern of ours is in regard to the proposal of CONNPIRG that the fee shall be "voluntary" and may be refunded to students who desire such a refund. Since that fee is not directly related to the legal mission of the College, a very serious question arises in our minds as to whether we have any right to collect such a fee. Also, we question whether the student desiring not to pay it at the time of registration could be forced to do so.

These are questions that have arisen on our campus as this matter has been discussed, and thus I was most concerned to forward them to you in light of the request from the University of Connecticut. Obviously, any ruling regarding CONNPIRG on the University of Connecticut campus will have direct effect on us here at Central.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

F. Don James
PRESIDENT

fdj/ic

cc: Dean Richard L. Judd

UConn Trustees Reject Fund Plan for Service Unit

STORRS — The University of Connecticut Board of Trustees rejected a subcommittee's recommendation for experiemental funding of a student public service group Wednesday, after learning the funding arrangement was not acceptable to the students' organizing group.

The trustees tabled the matter to September for any further consideration.

The trustees' vote was on a recommendatio of the Trustee-Administration Faculty-Students (TAFS) Committee that the university send all students a card or letter of information about ConnPIRG with their tuition bills and collect a voluntary $2-a-semester donation from students who want to support ConnPIRG.

The ConnPIRG organizers, however, want the university to include a $2 "ConnPIRG fee" in the total university fee bill and offer students the option of withholding the $2 payment.

This system seems less voluntary, but the original ConnPRIG proposal, supported by petitions signed by a majority of UConn's students, was for a mandatory fee that could be refunded to students who did not want to support the group, ConnPIRG spokesmen said.

ConnPIRG spokesmen have said their organization would have no legal tie to the university and would reimburse the school for use of fee bills as a collection mechanism.

The fees would be used to pay a state staff for ConnPIRG, which would coordinate student volunteers' work on consumer and environmental issues at various colleges in the state.

Based on an idea in a book by Ralph Nader, ConnPIRG would be similar to groups already operating in 14 states, ConnPIRG spokesmen said.

Steve Atlas, a Nader staff member from Washington, D.C., visiting the trustees' meeting with ConnPIRG organizers, said similar groups in other states found donation systems such as that proposed by the TAFS Committee did not work because they produced unstable funding.

UConn Associate Provost William Orr said after the trustees' meeting that members of the TAFS Committee, of which he is secretary, felt the total on the university fee bill should be only the required fees.

Although ConnPIRG has recommended that the UConn fee bills plainly explain the fee is optional and for an independent group, Orr said some TAFS members felt inclusion of even an optional fee might imply university endorsement of the group.

After the meeting, Thomas Gleason, the state coordinator for ConnPIRG, said the group already has commitments of financial support through Trinity, Annhurst and St. Joseph colleges, with negotiations still in progress for other finances.

During the trustees' meeting, Norma Jorgensen, a board members, said ConnPIRG organizers might be underestimating their student support by rejecting the idea of a voluntary contribution.

If students were willing to sign petitions for ConnPIRG, they also should be witling to contribute $2, she said, and moved for adoption of the TAFS recommendation with slight modifications.

A ConnPIRG spokesman conferred with Gant, who told the board ConnPIRG would prefer a delay of consideration to further state its case.

After rejecting Jorgensen's resolution to begin a voluntary ConnPIRG funding arrangement for January 1974, the trustees voted to table further consideration of ConnPORG to their September meeting, since that would still leave enough time to make arrangements for January.

Although UConn financing would be the largest portion of ConnPIRG's support in the state, a spokesman for the group said ConnPIRG should be able to begin its state operation on a limited scale this fall with funds from smaller schools.