

**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH
GROUP**

Storrs Campus By-Laws

April 22, 2014

Contents

I. Regular Meetings	2
II. Decision-Making	2
III. Election Procedure.....	3
IV. Campaign Selection	3
V. Campaign Implementation	4
VI. Budget	4
VII. Allocations	5
VIII. Supremacy	5
IX. Amendment	5
X. Enactment.....	5

I. Regular Meetings

1. A regular CORE meeting time will be established by CORE at the beginning of the semester.
2. CORE meeting time and locations will be posted online and in the office. All UConnPIRG volunteers and interns are encouraged to attend. Members of the public are also welcome to attend.
3. The UConnPIRG officers will set the weekly CORE agenda, and will consider input from UConnPIRG members, UConnPIRG and ConnPIRG staff, Faculty and Administrative staff, and other members of the UConn Community.
4. Any CORE member may move to add an item to the agenda during a CORE meeting.
5. While the officers and CORE may set whatever agenda they choose for the meeting, the following will serve as a template agenda:
 - i. Introductions and attendance
 - ii. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - iii. Updates
 1. State / National
 2. Chapter Updates
 3. Campaign Updates
 4. Treasurer's Update
 - iv. Business
 1. This will typically involve chapter decisions, goal setting, and /or skills training
 - v. Announcements
6. The agenda will be distributed to attendees before the meeting and available on paper or on butcher block or on a white board during the meeting

II. Decision-Making

1. Formal decisions will be made following a casual usage of parliamentary procedure.
 - a. Formal decisions must be moved and seconded before a vote.
 - b. Formal decisions must include time for discussion prior to a vote.
2. Efforts should be made to include as many people as possible in decisions, and CORE should strive for consensus in important decisions, while being ready to vote to settle issues of disagreement.
3. Voting Procedure
 - a. Before voting, the chair will clearly restate what is being voted on, including what it means to vote in favor or opposed.
 - b. The Chair will call for all those in favor, all opposed, and abstentions in that order.
 - c. Voting members may only vote once.
 - d. The Secretary shall count and record votes, and inform the chair of the outcome.

- e. The Chair shall announce the outcome of the vote.

III. Election Procedure

1. Nominations and Voting
 - a. Nominations
 - i. Any voting member of CORE may be nominated by themselves or another voting member of CORE.
 - ii. Nominated voting member must accept the nomination in order to be considered a candidate for the position.
 - iii. All nominations will apply to a single position.
 - b. Each candidate shall be allowed a minimum of two minutes to present his or her case or accept questions.
 - c. All candidates having presented their case shall exit the room to allow open discussion between all other present members of UConnPIRG.
 - d. Candidates shall re-enter room upon request of the CORE, and must be in attendance before final voting begins.
 - e. Voting
 - i. All present voting members of CORE shall be given one paper ballot on which to record their vote.
 - ii. No candidate shall be denied the right to vote freely.
2. The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes shall be considered the winner.
 - a. In the event that more than two candidates run for a position, there will be an election containing all candidates and, in the event that one candidate does not receive the majority of votes, there will be a runoff election.
3. The Secretary shall count and tally the votes, and present the result of the election to the Chair. The Chair shall present results to the CORE.
 - a. In the event that the Secretary is a candidate for the position that is being voted on, counting and tally shall be completed by another member of the officer board.
 - b. In the event that the Chair is a candidate for the position that is being voted on, presentation of the results shall be completed by another member of the officer board.
4. In the event of a tie, with two candidates receiving an equal, winning number of votes, a runoff election shall be held.
 - a. Runoff elections shall follow the same procedure listed above, except the two winning candidates will be considered to have received automatic nominations.
 - b. No other candidates shall be considered candidates for the position.

IV. Campaign Selection

1. Campaigns may be initiated at any time.
2. Campaign decisions will typically occur at the end of each semester, for the campaigns next semester

3. CORE members and officers should make an effort to solicit input on campaign ideas from chapter volunteers, interns as well as from other community members.
4. Campaign proposals must be written. Strong proposals will include
 - i. A clear, specific description of the problem we are working to solve
 - ii. A clear, specific description of the solution we propose
 - iii. Tangible goals to achieve in the short and long term
 - iv. A strategy for winning
 - v. Ideas for tactics and tactical goals
 - vi. A self-evaluation of campaign strength and weaknesses
5. Campaigns should be evaluated on criteria including but not limited to:
 - i. Is this a public interest issue?
 - ii. Does the campaign have a broad political audience?
 - iii. Is the campaign winnable?
 - iv. Does this issue appeal to important coalition partners?
 - v. Will this campaign recruit?
 - vi. Will the campaign tactics develop leaders and provide many different ways for students to get involved?
 - vii. Is the campaign timely?
 - viii. Will the campaign build the organization?
6. CORE will make an effort to select a diverse mix of campaigns including:
 - i. Campus, Local, State and National Campaigns
 - ii. Campaigns that prioritize different tactics, such as education, service, and advocacy.
 - iii. Campaigns that work on different issues
7. One campaign should be selected as the lead campaign
 - i. This will be the campaign UConnPIRG puts the most resources into.
 - ii. This will be the campaign UConnPIRG primarily recruits new members through.
 - iii. This campaign will typically be the lead campaign selected by the ConnPIRG student board of directors, but does not have to be.

V. Campaign Implementation

1. Each campaign will have a campaign coordinator, who is responsible for working with other UConnPIRG students, ConnPIRG staff, and other community members to implement the campaign.
2. Campaign coordinators are responsible for recruiting volunteers for their campaign.
3. Campaign coordinators will be implement campaigns in accordance to the goals and strategies of the campaign plan

VI. Budget

1. The annual budget should be developed in accordance with the goals of an annual plan and three-year plan, if one exists.

2. Budgets must be presented in writing for discussion and consideration before approval.
3. Budget decisions must be made considering
 - i. The best interests of the students paying the UConnPIRG Fee
 - ii. UConnPIRG's purpose and goals
 - iii. UConnPIRG's plan for the year
 - iv. UConnPIRG's historical budget priorities
4. Budget decisions should be made in recognition that UConnPIRG exists due to the support of the student body through referendum and through students paying the fee.
5. All efforts should be made to use resources as conservatively and strategically as possible; for the largest long-term benefit to UConn students.
6. The annual budget should be developed with as much detail as possible so that it is easy to know if a proposed allocation falls within the original intent of the annual budget.

VII. Allocations

1. Allocations require CORE approval
2. If an allocation is not within the original budget, either because it is an unplanned-for expense, or because it pushes a budget category over budget, CORE must approve an amendment to the annual budget before approving the expense.

VIII. Supremacy

These bylaws shall not be in conflict with the UConnPIRG Constitution, which is the supreme governing document of this organization.

IX. Amendment

1. Any amendments must be introduced at the weekly CORE meeting one week before it may be voted on.
2. Copies of the amendment must be distributed to all members in attendance at CORE for review.
3. Time for discussion must be allotted before any motions to vote on the introduced amendment.
4. A two-thirds vote must be attained to pass the introduced amendment.

X. Enactment

These bylaws shall go into effect on April 29th, 2014 upon approval of two-thirds vote in favor by all present voting members. These bylaws shall replace and render null any and all previous bylaws for this organization.