

UCONN PRAXIS

Storrs Campus Constitution

August 09, 2021

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I. Article I. Name

The official name of this organization is UConn Praxis.

II. Article II. Purpose

The purpose of UConn Praxis is to advance a public interest agenda and give students the skills and opportunities to practice effective citizenship. On campus and in the community, on local, state, national, and international issues, we investigate social problems, come up with practical solutions, convince the media and public to pay attention, and get decision-makers to act.

III. Article III. Mission Statement

The mission of UConn Praxis is to empower, activate, inspire, and serve the interests of all UConn students. Our namesake “Praxis” denotes our founding principle of putting activist theory into concrete action. We are a student-directed, student-funded advocacy group that tackles complex social issues pertinent to civil, social, and economic human rights, equity, and accessibility in our local and global communities. We provide training, resources, and opportunities for passionate students to identify issues within their communities and work together to address them effectively. In serving our mission to practice transformative justice, UConn Praxis operates as an independent Tier-III organization committed to building a more equitable society for all identities with the support of professional staff.

IV. Article IV. Membership

1. Any student of the University of Connecticut attending Storrs campus that pays the UConn Praxis Storrs fee is a member of the organization.
2. A CORE member is a student in the organization that has attended at least two CORE meetings during the semester.
 - i. Membership in the first CORE of a semester will be given to those who attended at least two CORE meetings in the previous semester.
3. General organization membership can be broken into three categories.
 - i. CORE Member
 - a. See Membership Section I Subsection i for definition.
 - b. All campaign coordinators shall be considered CORE members.
 - ii. Campaign Intern
 - a. Interns are participating in the UConn Praxis Internship Program. They are active members of the student organization and their campaigns.
 - iii. Campaign Volunteer
 - a. Volunteers are any members who choose to participate in any UConn Praxis event. They represent the organization during these events and their membership ends after the event unless

they attend CORE and become a CORE member.

4. Expulsion of Members

- i. If a member commits any of the following violations, they are subject to expulsion from the organization:
 - a. Violating the Student Code of Conduct
 - b. Misrepresenting the organization and its views to the public
 - c. Representing personal views to the public at UConn Praxis events or while representing UConn Praxis
 - d. Any violation that is not previously mentioned shall be left to the judgement of the Executive Board
- ii. When a violation is brought to CORE, the person accused shall have one week to prepare a defense. CORE will hear the accused's defense and the violation against them. CORE will then render judgment by a majority vote to expel or not.
 1. The student organization's President shall, only in these proceedings, cast a vote in the event of a tie.
 2. Results are final and cannot be appealed. The expelled member shall not further represent the organization.
 3. Results of vote shall be recorded in the official minutes.

V. Article V. Quorum

Quorum for weekly CORE meetings shall be established by at least five voting members being present, at least two of whom must be campus officers.

VI. Article VI. Officers

1. The following positions shall be elected to lead the CORE and maintain its responsibilities as the governing body of the organization:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Secretary
 - e.
2. Eligibility
 - a. In order to be considered eligible for these positions, a person must be a voting member of CORE and fulfill all requirements therein.
3. Officers may not hold more than one position at any time.
4. Officer positions are held for one academic year, pending resignation, impeachment, or inability to meet requirements of the role.

VII. Article VII. Officer Roles and Responsibilities

1. The President shall:
 - a. Conduct CORE meetings in an efficient and productive manner.

- b. Prepare the agenda for CORE meetings.
 - c. Serve as primary contact for the organization.
 - d. Serve as liaison to university administration.
 - e. Maintain the principle of leading by example.
2. The Vice President shall:
 - a. Hold the powers of the President in the absence of the President.
 - b. Be responsible for supervising all campaigns and campaign coordinators.
 - c. Be responsible for maintaining all official documents.
 - d. Maintain the principle of leading by example.
 3. The Secretary shall:
 - a. Be responsible for recording the minutes of CORE meetings.
 - b. Be responsible for sending these minutes to all CORE attendees within one week of the CORE meeting.
 - c. Update the official digital organization calendar.
 - d. Maintain the volunteer, intern, and CORE contact lists.
 - e. Maintain the student organization's UConn Praxis Student email account.
 - f. Maintain the student organization's UConn contact page.
 - g. Maintain the principle of leading by example.
 4. The Treasurer shall:

Be responsible for preparing UConn Praxis's budget and presenting it to the CORE for approval.

 - a. Be responsible for the explanation of expenses and other costs contained in the budget.
 - b. Be responsible for informing the CORE about the financial status of the organization prior to any decisions to approve expenditures.
 - c. Be responsible for maintaining a copy of UConn Praxis's books.
 - d. Conduct bi-weekly meetings with a Trustee Student Organization financial liaison.
 - e. Submit bills and purchase requests in a timely manner.
 - f. Maintain the principle of leading by example.
 5. All officers are responsible for leading by example and setting a high standard for involvement, action, and responsibility.
 6. The four officers shall have the authority to convene a cabinet at the beginning of each semester.
 - i. The makeup of the cabinet is up to the discretion of the officers and can vary in size.
 - ii. All cabinet positions shall be appointed by a vote of the officers.
 - iii. Applicants will submit letters of intent and all will be reviewed.
 - iv. The UConn Praxis Appointed Ex-Officio Senator can serve in the Cabinet but not as a paid member.

VIII. Article VIII. Elections

1. Elections for officer positions are to be held at the weekly CORE meeting within the last six weeks of the academic school year.

2. Elections for officer positions are to be held once every academic year excluding special elections.
3. Election Procedure:
 - a. Officer positions will be nominated, discussed, and voted on in the order of:
 - i. President
 - ii. Vice President
 - iii. Treasurer
 - iv. Secretary
 - b. Elections will be done by the following process and in accordance with the UConn Praxis By-Laws:
 - i. Nominations
 - ii. Speeches
 - iii. Discussion
 - iv. Voting
 - v. Tally and announcement of winner

IX. Article IX. Resignations

1. All officers may resign at any time during the academic year.
2. The resigning officer must present his or her name, position, and reason for resignation to CORE at a weekly CORE meeting. This may be done in writing or over electronic mail.
3. Resignations shall be in effect immediately upon the conclusion of the CORE meeting at which the resignation is announced.

X. Article X. Impeachment of Officers

1. Grounds for Impeachment
 - a. Failure of an officer to attend three consecutive or five total CORE meetings per semester.
 - b. Failure of an officer to hold the interests of the CORE and the organization as a whole in the highest priority.
 - c. Continual misuse or misrepresentation of the organization by an officer.
 - d. Grounds for impeachment are not limited to the above-mentioned circumstances.
2. Impeachment Procedures
 - a. An impeachment proposal may be submitted to CORE by any voting member.
 - b. Impeachment proposals must be presented to CORE with an explanation and grounds.
 - c. Time for discussion of the proposal must be allotted at the CORE meeting at which it was presented.
 - d. The officer in question must be given time to respond to the impeachment proposal.
 - e. A committee of three UConn Praxis voting members will be formed to investigate the submitted impeachment proposal.
 - i. The first member of the committee shall be selected by the voting member bringing forward the impeachment proposal, other than

- him/herself.
- ii. The second member shall be selected by the officer proposed for impeachment other than him/herself.
- iii. The third member shall be one non-biased party selected by the present voting members of CORE.
- iv. This committee shall investigate the impeachment proposal and submit their recommendation to the CORE within two weeks of the proposal.
- v. Recommendations must consist of a decision regarding impeachment or non-impeachment, followed by a detailed explanation of the committee's findings.
- f. A 2/3 vote of voting members present must be reached to enact an impeachment.
- g. If an officer is impeached, he or she will be immediately removed from office.
- h. Candidates that have been impeached within one year of an election are not eligible to run for the same position.
- i.

XI. Article XI. Vacancies

1. If a position becomes vacant either through resignation or impeachment, the remaining officers will decide whether or not to hold a special election immediately (which would occur at the following week's CORE meeting) or to wait until the next regular election time.
2. Special elections will follow the same voting procedure as a regular election.
3. Interim
 - i. In the event that an officer position is vacant, that officer shall be succeeded in the interim by an appointed member of the CORE, as determined by the Executive Board.

XII. Article XII. Advisor Appointments

The organization shall maintain a university advisor, to be approved at the start of each year through a simple majority vote of voting members at a weekly CORE meeting within the first month of school.

XIII. Article XIII. Budget Procedure

1. The annual budget must be approved at least once a semester and must be distributed to all voting members attending the weekly CORE meeting.
2. The budget must be renovated and reapproved whenever the approved budget is exceeded.

XIV. Article XIV. Decision-Making Model

1. All votes require a simple majority for passage, unless otherwise noted by this constitution or the By-Laws.
2. Voting will be conducted in a public manner, unless otherwise directed by the Constitution or By-Laws or by a 2/3 vote of CORE members to conduct a

- secret ballot.
3. Records of all CORE votes must be kept in the minutes.

XV. Article XV. Amendment Procedure

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 obtained to pass the introduced amendment.

XVI. Article XVI. Enabling Cause

This Constitution shall go into effect on **August 09, 2021**, upon approval of two-thirds vote in favor by all present voting members. This Constitution shall replace and render null any and all previous constitutions, procedures, practices, and precedents for this organization.