

UConn Praxis Core Meeting 22-13
Monday, November 29th, 2021, 7 PM
SU 331 & Zoom (remote location due to COVID-19 outbreak)

Voting Members (in-person): Natalie Seier (President), Rebecca Tripp (Vice President), Monet Paredes (Secretary), Benjamin Albee (Treasurer), Rachael Allegakoen, Esai Vazquez-Marentes, Cheyenne Tavares, Jessica Roberts, Mehdi Namazi, Kymberly Roberts, Zoe Baltrush, Srimayi Chaturvedula, Nia Moore, Riya Patel, Amy Eweka, Kayla Demoura, Dafne Alpdogan, Samantha Lamb, Cameron Cinaci, Aaron Hinze, Lauren McNally, Zoe Macris

Voting Members (virtual): Colleen Keller, Nia Moore

Non-Voting Members (in-person): Ciara DeMott, Maya Murarka

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:01pm by Natalie Seier (President)
- II. Welcome and Introductions
- III. Organizational Updates
 - A. Updates skipped for the sake of time.
- IV. Business
 - A. Minutes
 1. Seier motions to approve the Core meeting minutes from Monday, November 15th, 2021.
 2. Rebecca Trip seconds.
 3. Colleen Keller, Kayla Demoura, Cameron Cinaci, Amy Eweka, Dafne Alpdogan, Aaron Hinze abstain.
 4. Motion passes unanimously.
- V. Campaign Proposals
 - A. Maya Murarka proposes an Affordable Education Campaign and Ciara DeMott proposes an Affordable Higher Education Campaign or “Education for Everybody” Campaign. Murarka’s campaign would include making college more affordable for students. They explain UConn gets a kickback for the Barnes and Noble deal which does not help students who spend less on textbooks than the program offers. There is no way for the school to know how much students spend on textbooks, they would like to make sure the University has a better metric to make sure they are being responsible. They would also like to focus on price transparency through professors so students know if they want to opt out of the program. They would also like to create a Chrome extension that would link the price of class to student admin when students pick classes, work on the Textbook Exchange Network and get more space and books in that program. Increase OER funding on the legislative side and bring back the Connecticut Commitment. Host more OER events with professors and town hall related to the Barnes and Noble deal. DeMott’s campaign would target how expensive college is currently. The goals would be to educate students on the expenses of college, host an educational panel with States Representatives and the UConn Office of Finance to get students more aware of expenses. They would like to collaborate with

affordability to food. Organize textbook exchange, organize scholarships and educate people on what scholarships there are and how to get them. They would like to get printing accessibility for residence halls and “good grade” discounts. Murarka and DeMott recuse themselves at 7:36pm while members discuss which campaign should run. Murarka and DeMott return at 7:47pm. After an anonymous vote it is decided that DeMott’s campaign will be motioned.

1. Seier motion to approve the Education for Everybody Campaign as proposed by Ciara DeMott for the Spring 2022 semester.
2. Benjamin Albee seconds.
3. Motion passes unanimously.

B. Dafne Alpdogan proposes a Mental Matters Campaign and Kymberly Roberts proposes a Public Health Campaign. Alpdogan’s campaign will advocate for student’s mental health. They will work on testimonies from students to bring to SHaW (Student Health and Wellness) to make more active services, have more hours other than 9am-4pm and also address better insurance through the bursar. They want to work with the cultural centers and UCTV to create a video as testimony to SHaW. They would also work with the Dean’s Office to create awareness of students' mental health, have a Mental Health Month in May and create safe space for students. Have a purple ribbons event where sports teams could get involved to show campus unity. Mental health finals packets and asking for mental health days once a month and a mental health symposium panel to create a discussion. Roberts’s campaign will focus on racial justice, mental health, sexual health and responsible drug use. They hope to get STI free testing clinics, reproductive health vending machines, free drug testing kits and narkan nasal spray, as well as drug education. They would like to have a Rally for SHaW to meet students' needs and contract an online mental health service with Student Satisfaction Sessions to get feedback from students. Also focus on legislative work. Alpdogan and Roberts recuse themselves at 8:06pm while members discuss which campaign should run. Alpdogan and Roberts return at 8:16pm. After an anonymous vote it is decided that Roberts’s Public Health Campaign will be motioned.

1. Seier motion to approve the Public Health Campaign as proposed by Kymberly Roberts for the spring 2022 semester.
2. Rebecca Tripp seconds.
3. Keller, Nia Moore and Murarka exit at 8:04pm
4. Motion passes.

C. Zoe Baltrush proposes a Voter Voices Campaign and Aaron Hinze proposes a Voter League Campaign. Baltrush’s campaign will enhance accessibility to voting for college students. They would work to get a polling place on campus or registration place on campus. This would reduce barriers of mail in ballots and people incarcerated previously. The campaign would focus on raising registration numbers, creating workshops to learn the importance of voting and engaging the population through visibility work with every Vote Counts. They would also use outreach and advocacy focus and getting rid of partisan barriers, work with UNIV FYE (First Year Experience) courses to reach freshmen and host How to register

and vote in workshops. Hinze's campaign would make voting easily accessible for all uconn students, establish a second permanent polling location in Storrs to give more opportunity for students to vote, increase ways for students to vote and educate students on ways they can register, establish election day as a state holiday, host a seminar on voting suppression and rally to establish the holiday. A tabling tactic will focus on campaign and voter suppression on a wider scale. They would build a coalition that included faculty to help pressure Mansfield registrars. Baltrush and Hinze recuse themselves at 8:35pm while members discuss which campaign should run. Baltrush and Hinze return at 8:43pm. After an anonymous vote it is decided that Baltrush's Voter Voices Campaign will be motioned.

1. Seier motion to approve the Voter Voices Campaign as proposed by Zoe Baltrush for the Spring 2022 semester.
 2. Cheyenne Tavares seconds.
 3. Motion passes.
- D. Srimayi Chaturvedula proposes a Food & Housing Equity Project. They will reach food and housing insecurity more holistically. Diverse student populations must be supported by working with dietary restrictions, acknowledges and empower different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. They will continue Husky Market but make it more sustainable to turn into a food pantry. They hope to host a summit on food and housing insecurity with the uconn administration. The refugee crisis will also be a focus within the larger UConn community.
1. Seier motions to approve the Food & Housing Equity Project as proposed by Srimayi Chaturvedula for the Spring 2022 semester
 2. Chaturvedula seconds.
 3. Motion passes unanimously.
- E. Mehdi Namazi proposes the Sustainable Skies Campaign. Their campaign will be an all encompassing environmental campaign. The focus will be to get Uconn to be carbon neutral and decrease plastic use by getting the Union Street Market change to paper containers, host Husky March on Earth Day and host an environmental justice convention. They would continue clothing swaps and plant based food truck events as well as biking, state bag on plastic bags and UConn food store. They would change podcast structure to break away from WHUS, create a Husky March documentary and partner with FFF (Fridays for Future) Sunrise CT and SUBOG.
1. Seier motions to approve the Sustainable Skies Campaign as proposed by Mehdi Namazi for the Spring 2022 semester.
 2. Tavares seconds
 3. Motion passes unanimously.

VI. Announcements/Action Items

- A. Namazi shares that they have a Biking Panel tomorrow at 6pm and a clothing swap on December 5th.
- B. Seier shares the last Core will be next week.
- C. Chaturvedula asks members to donate winter clothes this week.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm
Minutes submitted by Monet Paredes (Secretary)