

UConn Praxis General Membership Meeting 22-20  
Monday, February 28th, 2022, 7:00 PM  
Koons Hall 201 & Zoom (due to COVID-19 outbreak)

Voting Members (in person): Rebecca Tripp (Vice-President), Benjamin Albee (Treasurer), Monet Paredes (Secretary), Zoe Baltrush, Esai Vazquez-Marentes, Kymberly Roberts, Peyton Marie De Lorenzo, Zoe Macris, Mehdi Namazi, Cheyenne Tavares, Lauren McNally, Laura Augenbraun, Jessica Roberts, Mehdi Namazi, Samantha Lamb, Cameron Cinaci, Kayla Demora, Chloe Connelly, Rebekah Wesler

Voting Members (virtual): Sophia Kim, Emma Baxter, Lauren McNally, Rachael Allegakoen, Kelsey McNamara, Kaleigh Lambert, Charis Chui

Non-voting Members (in person): Rachael Felder, Jungwon An

Guest(s)(in person): Ethan Werstler (Undergraduate Student Government Vice President), Peter Spinelli

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:04pm by Rebecca Tripp (Vice-President)
- II. Welcome & Introductions
- III. Organization Updates
  - A. Executive Board
    1. Tripp shares that the Executive Board sent out an email about tables, worked on a new budget format and have been working on legislative action. There will be testimony given Wednesday and Friday of this week.
  - B. Cabinet & Staff
    1. Jessica Roberts shares the office calendar is updated for March, there are multiple visibility tables this week for anyone who wants to volunteer. Upcoming, the mentorship program will be starting soon and Communications meetings are Tuesdays at 5pm.
- IV. Campaign Updates
  - A. Education for Everybody
    1. Tripp shares that the campaign is working on a NoLo presentation at 5pm on March 9th. Upcoming they are planning a supply grab and go. Campaign meetings are Monday from 4-5pm.
  - B. Food and Housing Equity Project
    1. Tripp shares that the campaign will be proposing a renewal of Husky Market. This week interns will be planning project distribution. Campaign meetings are Monday from 6-7pm.
  - C. Public Health
    1. Kymberly Roberts shares that they attended a Sexual Assault Day of Silence planning meeting, are working on a sexual assault awareness week, submitted for graphics for the campaign and have a moving screening room booked. Campaign meetings are Thursday from 6:30-7:30pm..
  - D. Sustainable Skies

1. Mehdi Namazi shares that they are reorganizing the Connecticut Environmental Justice Conference Workshop to be mirco-events through April. Husky March planning meeting will take place on Friday at 3:30pm to plan demands. The clothing swap will be March 25th on Fairfield Way. Upcoming there is a thrift trip planned this weekend. Campaign meetings are Sundays at 3pm.

E. Voter Voices

1. Zoe Baltrush shares that they met with Sasha from EVC (Every Vote Counts) for legislative action, reached out to the Women's Center for a movie screening and talked about ideas for the voting toolkits. They are having tables this week on both recruitment and pledging to vote. Campaign meetings are Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30pm.

V. Business

A. Minutes

1. Tripp motions to approve the UConn Praxis General Membership Meeting minutes from Monday, February 21st.
2. Benjamin Albee seconds.
3. Motion passes unanimously.

B. Hot Chocolate

1. Albee motions to approve and up to an amount of \$500 for University Catering hot chocolate to be used at “find your legislator tables”.
2. Lamb seconds.
3. Motion passes unanimously.

C. Art Supplies

1. Tripp motion to approve an up to amount of \$200 for chalk, acrylic paint, paint brushes to be used for postering and chalking.
2. Peyton Maries De Lorenzo seconds.
3. Discussion:
  - a) Namazi brings up that these are not eco-friendly supplies.
  - b) Lamb asks if they could not be ordered by Amazon to buy sustainably.
  - c) Zoe Marcis asks if we could support local businesses
  - d) Albee explains the restraints of the business office.
4. Motion does not pass (*Rebecca Tripp, Benjamin Albee, Zoe Baltrush, Esai Vazquez-Marentes, Kymberly Roberts, Peyton Marie De Lorenzo, Zoe Macris, Mehdi Namazi, Cheyenne Tavares, Meredith Veilleux, Lauren McNally, Laura Augenbraun, Jessica Roberts, Mehdi Namazi, Samantha Lamb, Cameron Cinaci, Kayla Demora, Chloe Connelly and Rebekah Wesler dissent*).

D. Care Packages: Detergent Pods

1. Tripp motions to approve an up to amount of \$3,000 for 40 laundry stain and odor detergent pods packs.
2. Namazi seconds.
3. Motion passes unanimously.

E. Care Packages: Beeswax Wraps

1. Tripp motions to approve an up to amount of \$4,500 for 250 nature bee beeswax wraps.
  2. Namazi seconds.
  3. Discussion:
    - a) Lamb brings up if the beeswax is sustainable and ethically sourced because they feel uncomfortable distributing it without knowing the source.
  4. Motion passes by majority (*Lamb and Tavares dissent*).
- F. Care Packages: Dryer Balls
1. Tripp motions to approve an up to amount of \$4,000 for 125 wool dryer ball packs.
  2. Albee seconds.
  3. Discussion:
    - a) Lamb again brings us wool that is also sourced from animals.
    - b) Esai Vazquez-Marentes says the website says the wool is ethically sourced.
  4. Motion passes by majority (*Albee and Lamb dissent*).
- G. Care Packages: Totes and lunch bags
1. Tripp motions to approve an up to amount of \$5,000 for 250 sustainable totes bags and 250 lunch bags.
  2. Namazi seconds.
  3. Motion passes unanimously.
- H. Husky Market
1. Tripp motions to approve an up to amount of \$100,000 for Husky Market.
  2. Albee seconds.
  3. Discussion:
    - a) Ethan Werstler hopes to do husky market again as it is the last time it can run in this format due to covid. It is one of the most direct ways to address food insecurity. They explain the benefits of Husky Market and the USG (Undergraduate Student Government) contribution. From the beginning there has been a USG Praxis collaboration.
    - b) Lamb asks how it is promoted at regional campuses.
    - c) Werstler explains the regional campuses reachout to and pay for their own students. It was advertised the same way at the regional campuses as it was at Storrs through social media as a program to address food insecurity to get the people who need it to apply.
    - d) Albee asks if regional campuses will be included.
    - e) Werstler is not sure but the money being approved today would not go to regional campuses.
    - f) Albee adds the business office can not complete the orders until the regional campuses are on board.
    - g) Namzi asks what is the expected roll out time of the program.
    - h) Werstler says a new plan that may involve cutting off the regional campuses would hopefully get the cards out by summer. Instacart

might be a new way to get money out to students faster. The paperwork is what takes the longest time.

- i) Namazi asks what the plan is for card distribution.
- j) Werstler explains the cards have been rolled out over summer before and everyone who is granted a card will still be eligible for it even if they transfer, graduate or leave the university. They plan would be to camp out in the Student Union, email and call students to come get their cards.
- k) K Roberts asks they will deal with instacart fees.
- l) Werstler hopes they can get a premium instacart membership where there are no fees.
- m) Tripp adds they have committed \$100,000 in the past and have budgeted it out to make sure it is sustainable for UConn Praxis. They've been thinking about making this more permanent program as a food pantry.
- n) Albee asks how they will go about making this a collaborative process.
- o) Werstler says this has been a struggle in the past but will work to find similar stuff to agree on to work on social media posts and to make sure credit for the program is shared. They worry about collaborative effort on promotion and distribution.
- p) Albee says the branch campuses worry him as they think about how they prompt this and represent both brands.
- q) Namazi asks for an overview of the timeline.
- r) Werstler shares an overview of the timeline of Husky Market including student organizational planning, promotion/application process, selection process, purchasing, packaging then distributing.
- s) Namazi asks how long the selection process takes.
- t) Werstler explains this happens with Student Activities and Financial Aid offices and can take anywhere between two days and a week.
- u) Albee asks about the 7% of free cards.
- v) Werstler explains the free 7% or cards that covered a surplus of students needs to be covered. They denied the free cards from the stores.
- w) Namazi asks if they can commit to not doing the application process over spring break. Due to the fact students may not be paying attention as much.
- x) Werster says no. They hope to avoid it by doing it before or after.

4. Tavares abstains.

5. Motion passes unanimously.

## VI. Announcements & Action items

A. Tripp shares there are no announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm

Minutes submitted by Monet Paredes (Secretary)