

SASFAC Submission : Entry # 1263

Contact Information

Organization

Praxis

Campus Address of Office

Student Union room 214
2110 Hillside Rd
Storrs, Connecticut 06268
United States
[Map It](#)

Organization Website

<https://praxisorg.uconn.edu>

Organization Social Media Information

Instagram: uconnpraxis
Twitter: uconnpraxis
Facebook: UConnPraxis

Organization History and Mission

History/Mission of the Organization

UConn Praxis was formerly known as UConn Public Interest Research Group, a chapter of Conn PIRG part of Student PIRG’s Network. The organization had a near fifty year track record of serving student interests on campus and across the state through activist work on issues such as youth voter turnout, eliminating single use plastics throughout the state, and increasing textbook transparency. In 2021, members of UConn PIRG voted to no longer pursue services with ConnPIRG and disaffiliate as a chapter. UConn PIRG has rebranded to UConn Praxis and now operates independently on the Storrs Campus. UConn Praxis continues to serve the interests of students through education, service, and advocacy on the campus and state level. UConn Praxis focuses its resources on running student-lead campaigns chosen by voting members each semester. Campaigns run by UConn Praxis have addressed food and housing insecurity, women’s rights, climate change, sustainability, education affordability and access, public health, and youth voter mobilization. UConn Praxis functions through its strong relations with campus partners such as other RSOs, Faculty, and Administrators, community partners like No Freeze Shelter, and local and state legislators. 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.

Revenue

Is your Organization seeking a fee increase?

No

Does your Organization receive income from any source other than student fees?

No

Organization Structure and Payroll

Organizational Chart and Supplemental Excel Sheet

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- [PDFUConnPraxis-Organizational-Chart-Updated_-July-2021-1.pdf](#)

Does your Organization pay any elected or appointed student leaders?

No

Does your Organization pay any non-student staff?

No

Activity Participation

Who is eligible to participate in your activities?

- Undergraduate students of a specific campus
- All undergraduate students across all campuses
- Graduate students of a specific program(s)
- All graduate students across all campuses
- Faculty/Staff
- Community Members/Guests

Please describe how students (number and/or percentage) utilize your services and/or participate in your activities?

We currently have approximately 100 students who are involved with our organization as leaders, interns, or volunteers. Our reach to our remaining constituents varies based on the service or event provided. We currently have three departments on campus (Sociology, Human Rights, and Urban Studies) whose students are able to take our internship for credit. While only 100 students may be involved in the campaign or organizational work, we run programs like Husky Market, which provides 1000 students with gift cards. It should be noted that this is a partnership with USG, and Praxis provides on third of the gift cards, thus reaching 333 students. We also give away necessary items such as hygiene products, water bottles tote bags, shirts, and others as promotional materials, which reach around 1,000 additional students. Between our service-based promotional materials, Husky Market and direct involvement, up to 1,500 students utilize our services and/or participate in our activities, which is about 8% of the undergraduate student body.

Please describe how faculty/staff (number and/or percentage) utilize your services and/or participate in your activities?

As mentioned above, we currently have three departments on campus (Sociology, Human Rights, and Urban Students) whose students are able to take our internship for credit. The professors of those departments are able to give their students a real-world educational experience in service, communications and/or advocacy. We additionally work with staff within SABS (Student Activities Business Services) and TSOS (Trustee Student Organization Support). Additionally, we often reach out to professors or library staff to speak about the issues we work on. In a semester, the number of faculty/ staff we work with totals around 20

Please describe how members of the local community (number and/or percentage) utilize your services and/or participate in your activities?

Local community members benefit through many of our service based initiatives. We have continually worked with the Windham No Freeze shelter to provide non perishable goods, voter tool kits, and donated clothing. Many of the benefits to students and the community are intangible and come from our continued legislative work on the state and local level such as our previous plastic bag ban win. It is most difficult to measure how many community members we benefit. While part of our mission is to serve community members, which we do through direct volunteer work at places such as the Windham No Freeze shelter, we are also dedicated to advocacy and education. Our legislative wins such as the plastic bag ban contributes to great environmental work being done across the globe, but there is no direct number of people we benefit from this.

Please upload your Organization's Quickbooks Profit & Loss Report Standard Last Fiscal Year (FY 21)

- [Screen-Shot-2021-12-08-at-1.44.17-PM-1.png](#)

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Please upload your Organization's FY 22 Budget

- [Praxis_Operating-Budget-FY22-1.xlsx](#)

Please upload your Organization's Quickbooks Profit & Loss Report Standard Last Fiscal Quarter (FY 22 July 1-Sept 30)

- [Screen-Shot-2021-12-08-at-1.43.45-PM-1.png](#)

Expenditures

Briefly describe the programs and services you provide for your constituents that serve as the primary focus of your Organization.

Our main focuses as an organization are service, education and advocacy. Our service includes direct financial help such as Husky Market and our other need-based promotional item drives, volunteer work such as that with the Windham No Freeze shelter, and mutual aid work such as our winter gear drive. Our education involves events and panels, social media and physical education such as chalking and posters. These all help educate our constituents on the structural issues that affect them, such as public health issues, climate change, and food and housing inequity. Our advocacy works to put that education into action. By alleviating students external burdens through service, educating them on larger issues, and giving them an outlet to directly influence policy, our organization mobilizes students to create a better world for our future.

What are the top 3 expenditure categories for your Organization?

- 607- Promotional Items
- 610.2- Supplies/Materials- Events/Programs
- 625- Equipment/Durable Goods

Please explain significant changes in the operating budget (spending plan) for this fiscal year starting 7/1/21 when compared to the previous years budget. What are the short-term goals for the organization?

The primary significant change in this budget is the increase in Husky Market funding. We were able to expand our service to students in this way due to COVID policies, which should be soon phasing out. Our primary short-term goal is to establish Praxis as a brand for students, as an avenue for change. Our work in Husky Market was a part of this process, but should not continue; that would not be necessary for our brand nor would it be sustainable for our finances. We also have introduced wages for student leaders. We plan on continuing these wages, as the work we do is difficult and necessary of diversity. Expecting students to do this work without compensation limits the people who may do this work to those students who do not need to be paid for their labor. Including students from all economic backgrounds into our workforce allows our work to be diverse, equitable and inclusive.

What (if any) are the timing anomalies with regard to the reported income/expenditures?

N/A

Fund Balance

If your Organization should carry over funds from one year to the next, what is the ideal (minimum) level of that fund balance and what is the justification for that amount?

Our ideal minimum level of our fund balance is \$60,000, due to the fact that this is the budgeted cost of wages. If our funds get too low, our staff should at least be able to do the work to make sure our revenue is stable.

If your organization is carrying a fund balance above the ideal/minimum level - what planned expenditures are budgeted (in which upcoming fiscal year)with the intention to bring down the fund balance to ideal levels?

While we cannot continue Husky Market, which would quickly bring our fund balance down, our Food and Housing Equity Project is planning a food pantry in its place, which would be a significant expense.

Projections and Future

Please upload your Organization's FY 23 and FY 24 Budget Projections

- [PRX-Student-Activity-Fee-Budget-Projection-Form-FY-23-24-1.pdf](#)

What are your Organizational priorities that are reflected in your projected budgets for the next two fiscal years?

We intend to prioritize co-sponsorships and contractual services for providing services to students directly. Our collaborations such as the Clothing Swap, Husky Market and The Textbook Exchange Network have set a foundation for ways we can facilitate programs that directly serve our constituents. Along with providing product or services, we look to increase our contractual services that will allow for us to better train our involved leaders as well as open those opportunities to our constituents. Trainings that have been proposed and currently align with our mission through our campaign work include self-defense trainings, first aid, legislative, and voter registration.

Is there any additional information that the Committee should be aware of when reviewing your budget documentation?

The last semester UConn Praxis collected student fees was the Fall 2020 semester. We chose not to collect a fee during Spring 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on students and our organization's surplus. We did not collect a fee for the Fall of 2021 or Spring 2022 semesters as we felt it was best to make sure our constituents were fully aware of our disaffiliation from Conn PIRG and familiar with the organization as UConn Praxis. This past November, our president and treasurer presented to the UConn Board of Trustee's Student Life Committee to inform them of the disaffiliation.

Date the Organization will be holding (or already held) a public budget forum:

12/06/2021

Have you received TSOS comments and had an opportunity to amend or edit your submission?

Yes

Date that TSOS comments were recieved

02/16/2022

Date of formal Organization Budget vote

01/24/2022

Notes

 **Final Submission (ID: 6192b0dd0caad)**
added 4 mins ago

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.

SOLID	Signer	List		
President	Required	Yes		
Vice President	Yes	No		
Treasurer				
Secretary				
President/Secreta				
Treasurer/VP				
VP/Secretary				

Organization:	UConn Praxis
Vote Date:	1/24/2022
\$	351,425 Step 1 - Fund Balance to Start the Year (from Step 1 tab)
\$	100,000 Step 2 - Minimum Desired Fund Balance for Year End (from Step 2 tab)

Code Description		Operating Budget	Training Steps
Fund Balance Available for Operating Budget		251,425	Step 3
REVENUE	512 Advertising		Step 4
	546 Interest	\$ 2,000	
	547 Student Fees	\$ 150,000	
Total Revenues		152,000	
Total Anticipated Cash for Budget		403,425	Step 5
EXPENDITURES	602 Dues		Step 6
	603 Gifts	\$ 100	
	604 Photocopying	\$ 30	
	605 Postage	\$ 2,500	
	606 Printing	\$ 300	
	607 Promotional Items	\$ 50,000	
	608.1 Refreshments - Organization	\$ 5,000	
	608.2 Refreshments - Events/Programs	\$ 5,000	
	609 Subscriptions	\$ 5,000	
	610.1 Supplies - Organization	\$ 3,000	
	610.2 Supplies - Events/Programs	\$ 500	
	611 Telephone	\$ 350	
	612 Advertising	\$ 2,000	
	613 Awards and Prizes	\$ 1,000	
	615.1 Contractual Services - Organization	\$ 100,000	
	615.2 Contractual Services - Events/Programs	\$ 35,000	
	617.1 Cost of Food Sold		
	617.2 Cost of Merchandise Sold		
	617.3 Cost of Participation		
	617.4 Cost of Services Sold		
	622.1 Registration Fees	\$ 1,250	
	622.2 Entry Fees		
	623 Rental	\$ 1,000	
	624 Travel	\$ 10,000	
	625 Equipment/Durable Goods	\$ 6,000	
	626 Equipment - Capital		
	627 Insurance		
	628 Repairs and Maintenance		
	642 Wages - Student	\$ 90,000	
	643 Wages - Non-Student	\$ 7,200	
644 Wage Taxes - Student	\$ 600		
645 Wage Taxes - Non-Student			
Total Expenditures		325,830	
Fund Balance Planned for End of Year		77,595	

Step 7
 Budget should be prepared for formal Org Approval
 Org Approval must happen by motion in a public meeting
 Once approved, submit budget and minutes to TSOS
 Reminders:
 Orgs can change their budget at any time
 Budget must be in place prior to any financial activity

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02/16/22

Accrual Basis

UConn Praxis
Profit & Loss
July through December 2021

		Jul - Dec 21
Income		
547 · Student Fees		1,125.30
Total Income		<u>1,125.30</u>
Expense		
606 · Printing		97.46
607 · Promotional Items		2,629.68
609 · Subscriptions		461.18
610 · SUPPLIES		
610.1 · Organization		1,178.36
610.2 · Events/Programs		103,877.56
Total 610 · SUPPLIES		<u>105,055.92</u>
611 · Telephone		82.40
615 · CONTRACTUAL SERVICES		
615.1 · Organization		5,884.76
615.2 · Events/Programs		33.75
Total 615 · CONTRACTUAL SERVICES		<u>5,718.51</u>
617 · SALES EXPENSE		
617.2 · Cost of Merch Sold		2,781.00
Total 617 · SALES EXPENSE		<u>2,781.00</u>
625 · Equipment/Durable Goods		248.75
642 · Wages - Student		18,977.62
Total Expense		<u>136,052.52</u>
Net Income		<u>-134,927.22</u>

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12/08/21
Accrual Basis

UConn Praxis
Profit & Loss
July 2020 through June 2021

	Jul '20 - Jun 21
Income	
546 · Interest Revenue (UNIV)	681.64
547 · Student Fees	91,379.54
Total Income	92,061.18
Expense	
607 · Promotional Items	1,089.25
609 · Subscriptions	359.28
610 · SUPPLIES	
610.2 · Events/Programs	22,014.01
Total 610 · SUPPLIES	22,014.01
611 · Telephone	657.48
613 · Awards and Prizes	250.00
642 · Wages - Student	28,461.72
Total Expense	52,831.74
Net Income	<u>39,229.44</u>

