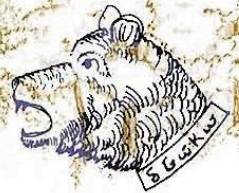


Order of the Golden Bear



The discussion tonight concerned the need of 'bridging the divide' between the seemingly disconnected groups and communities within the overall University community, regarding faculty and administrative groups, and also different student groups and communities.

At the beginning of the discussion, Fellows brought forward the recent dissent and factionalism within the ASUC as indicative of the larger trend of divisive energy on campus, and many inquired on how it would be possible to bridge divides between student groups and communities.

Some Fellows suggested institutionalizing cultural sensitivity on the campus, to facilitate inter-group dialogue, and to be preventative with such sensitivity as opposed to as a response after the fact. Other Fellows, however, wondered if any kind of mandatory sensitivity training would go the way of 'alcohol.edu' as being not taken seriously, citing that one cannot legislate understanding or acceptance, as we all have individual responsibility.

In tackling possible solutions to this problem of community disconnect, some Fellows looked to the administration to assist in establishing the desired culture as well. Fellows stated that buy in from both the administration as the power structure and from the students and faculty as the respective 'players' involved in the various communities. Many Fellows also simply noted that taking it upon ourselves to interact with each other, to meet new people, while there may be suspicion or hostility at first, will facilitate easier and smoother interaction over time.

As the discussion progressed, many Fellows emphasized that the issue of disconnect was not just confined to different cultural groups or communities, but all kinds of campus activities and interest groups. While Fellows cited this disconnect goes above cultural identity and is simply rooted in identity based on group membership, other Fellows used this line of thought and cited the lack of 'all-encompassing' campus activities such as sporting events that unite the entire campus together regardless of group identity.

Tying together many previous points of discussion, some Fellows noted in many instances that the administration needs to play more of an active role in facilitating this

change in culture and to institutionalize it, while others saw the detrimental effects brought on by this student disconnect, as our isolated groups sometimes serve as ‘echo chambers’ which can crystallize opinions, demonize others, and create built up tension ripe for release when crises come up involving different communities with possible misunderstandings between them.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned in the usual manner.