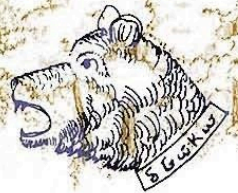


Order of the Golden Bear



The topic of tonight's discussion concerned the state of campus climate at the University.

Fellows quickly noted the pertinence of this discussion given the University of California system-wide campus climate survey released in March. Fellows urged the campus community to reflect on how we can improve the rate of students who feel comfortable at the University. Fellows examined the key to healthy peer-to-peer interactions as it was noted the most important factor to student comfort.

Fellows introduced examples of the exclusionary conduct on campus mentioned in the report, including, but not limited to, debates on Israel and Palestine, the exclusion of disabled students, and marginalization of the African American community. Along these lines, Fellows noted there is a contested space on this campus, ranging from interest groups attempting to gain a priority position in the limited time available to addresses issues of concern to contention over physical space, such as gender-neutral restrooms. Fellows also noted exclusionary factors that are not peer-to-peer related, including economic factors. For when University issues arise, Fellows proposed that groups may look for collaborators rather than internalize the situation to create awareness of the problem and build a solution so that problems do not perpetuate.

Fellows acknowledged the lack of civil discourse on campus as a key factor creating anger, resentment, or discomfort with students. They recognized the role of staff and faculty in cultivating respectful peer-to-peer relations between students in the classroom and beyond. Fellows also recognized the role of the ASUC to create spaces and initiatives to focus on student health and wellness. Fellows noted how accepting the charges of frankness, tolerance, and confidentiality in daily interactions can cultivate an environment of civil discourse.

Fellows suggested that groups find common ground to collaborate and promote civil discourse on issues facing the campus community. Fellows also proposed creating measures and promoting spirit events to foster a better sense of a greater University community from the first day a new student walks on campus. No matter the solution, Fellows stressed the importance of responding to this challenge so that all students remain comfortable at the University.