



The topic of tonight's discussion concerned belonging and community on campus.

Fellows discussed strategic planning by the Division of Student Affairs to bridge the gap between academics and academic support, extracurricular activities, and space. Fellows reflected on the meaning of "belonging" and how we can help make it so every individual in the campus community feel like they are a valuable member of that community.

Some Fellows noted that focusing on spaces that students occupy could be a relatively simple solution to improve a sense of belonging on campus. Fellows pointed out students sitting on the ground in hallways, the lack of electrical outlets, and minimal space during cold and rainy conditions as spaces that cause an unwelcome environment. Some Fellows suggested that the growth in the student population may be the reason for issues of space and shared experience.

Many Fellows stated that, in many cases, administrative complications and focus on the bottom dollar cause problems for students that hamper a sense of community. Some Fellows focused on campus departments that receive student fees, but do not have significant student focus or involvement, including Cal Performances and the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. Some Fellows also pointed to failing infrastructure, including excessive waiting at Cal Student Central and Tele-Bears failures, as a pain to students, staff, and administrators that also causes tension between groups.

Some Fellows pointed to their personal identity as a source of discomfort in the classroom, from being a student-athlete to a member of an underrepresented minority. Some Fellows also pointed to success stories to promote belonging in the classroom, including the EECS department leveraging technology such as Facebook and YouTube to connect faculty, staff, and students.

Many Fellows suggested focusing on the timeless aspects of the University so that people can connect to the campus even many years from now. Some Fellows pointed to the Cal Spirit DeCal facilitated by the University of California Rally Committee as a service to teach some of the history of the University and Coach Sonny Dykes' revitalized focus on the University identity, and recommended that the University administration and faculty take a larger role in bestowing this knowledge to students. Although Cal Athletics has a great role on campus to create shared experience to foster a sense of belonging, some Fellows noted that it ignores

groups like the Cal Band, Mic Men, Rally Committee, Dance Team, and cheerleaders that make these experiences unique.

Some Fellows also suggested that focusing on these timeless aspects could aid the University's philanthropy efforts. Many Fellows explained that to be able to foster this community and sense of belonging, we must show that we value community as an institution. To do so, some Fellows suggested that we do more to communicate and engage with alumni and University supporters when not simply asking for money. Some Fellows also pointed to celebrations to foster this feeling, whether in the classroom, at a campus concert, at an Athletics event, or at the Big Game Bonfire Rally.