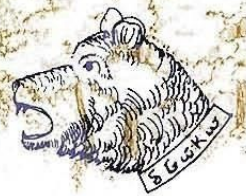


Order of the Golden Bear



The Usual Place, September 27, 2016

The topic of tonight's discussion was on recent events related to University policy & community engagement surrounding freedom of expression on campus.

The conversation was centered around accountability and responsible speech. Some of the events that sparked this discussion were: decisions over a deCal, chalking around campus, and Daily Cal Op-Eds.

Several Fellows voiced their support for academic freedom but that such speech should not be a safety concern for students. Many Fellows support student safety and inclusion over the freedom to express certain conflicting ideas.

Some Fellows highlighted that UCPD unreliable presence around student actions. A Fellow discussed the lack of transparency in consequences and punishments. The previous Fellow also mentioned the tendency for UCPD to escalate situations causing students to lose confidence in where to turn for help.

Another Fellow discussed the importance of student participation in the discourse on campus. Through participation this Fellow hopes to engage with political speech that may be threatening for some students on campus. A Fellow recognized the difficulty in regulating students' expression but that the line should be drawn when content could lead to violence towards a community.

Following the conversation of student engagement, a Fellow wanted to understand what the parameters are in terms of speech in a public space. A few Fellows emphasized that although a student can speak their mind this does not make them free of the consequences of their words. A Fellow encouraged a civil challenge of ideas that should never reach the point of violence . Other Fellows suggested setting up events that can lead to public civil discussion.

Other Fellows encouraged exposure to thoughts that are not popular opinion on campus.

In regard to chalking on campus, a Fellow informed that this is indeed defacement of property and should be reported. A Fellow wondered if UCPD would follow up on the chalking incidents. Another Fellow informed that many policies do not apply to folks off campus, like the perpetrator of the chalking. This Fellow also asked what policies should be created in terms of off campus people that come onto our campus with the purpose of agitating.

A Fellow brought to light a more proactive method of action. This Fellow encouraged the development of engaged discussion and response.

Another Fellow highlighted the sense that some communities it is ok to threaten. They stressed that any type of threat is unacceptable and that all communities should strive for a model of positive behavior. Many Fellows also stressed that there need to be more factual education that would eventually allow for more freedom of speech.

Overall, all Fellows agreed on increasing civil dialog between groups that have polar views. In addition, many Fellows opposed speech that makes students feel unsafe or unwelcome at our university.