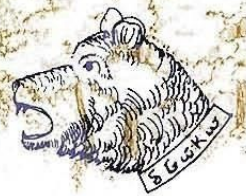


Order of the Golden Bear



The Usual Place, November 15, 2016

The topic for tonight's discussion was 'Lower Sproul after One year'.

The initial conversation was led by a Fellow who praised the efforts of students and administration in working for something students really cared about. Another Fellow provided historical context on the development of Lower Sproul. This Fellow described the transition of the student union from being voluntary to becoming a fee based organization. They added that students knew that these buildings would need to be maintained and remodeling and therefore would need to establish a model to cover these costs. Fellows were also interested in developing a model for this funding to continue for the future. One Fellow mentioned a fee referendum is meant to cover the costs of maintenance. A Fellow was glad to see the Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) building include a new Multicultural Community Center, increased meeting spaces, as well as a connection between MLK and Eshleman. However, this Fellow commented that there are still needs to be met for many student groups. The issues on space were also mentioned by other Fellows.

Additionally, another Fellow was also impressed with the new buildings. This Fellow raised concerns that the addition of the Amazon area, which took over a major social space, was taking away the sense of community. This Fellow felt that the student union should not be a commercial space. This Fellow was also wondered on the fate of the library that was previously located on the upper levels of MLK. Other Fellows were disappointed with the limited study spots or just places to sit in general. Another Fellow addressed these concerns about the amazon store and the restaurants which they assured was an aim to offset the costs of the LEAD center. However, this

Fellow agreed that some of the commercial space could be better utilized for more student spaces. Another Fellow highlighted that has actually increased but the arrangement has changed. This Fellow described this as an increase in shared space with more cubicles for groups to meet. They explained that there was a downsizing in private space however this was with the aim to improve shareable space and to improve dialog in between groups. Another Fellow added that the lower basement is still being developed and once finished should provide a lot more space. One Fellow was concerned that some performance rooms were not adequate that groups were hoping to renovate the floors. This Fellow also stressed that students need to provide feedback and give their input because the space is continue to evolve.

Continuing the conversation of restaurants, some Fellows mentioned students not wanting to make purchases because they do not accept meal points. These Fellows suggested that the restaurants would be more popular if they accepted meal points. Other Fellows were concerned with the limitations of having Chartwells as the sole catering company for events in the building. Another Fellow added that there were many contentions about what to do over food. According to this Fellow many were opposed to having a food court full of national chains. They suggested having a space in the student union for small community vendors. Another Fellow, explained that the student union has a single company running the previous model was not bringing in as much revenue. Other Fellows suggested bringing food trucks onto campus but understood that these vendors may not bring revenue to the campus.

Lastly, Fellows echoed that the new structure is positive in comparison with the previous building. Many Fellows suggested that students in Engineering and/or Computer Science did not feel connected to the campus' student union. Some Fellows suggested that the campus should think about developments on the Northside of campus.