

Order of The Golden Bear

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ESTABLISHED 1900

Temporary Meeting Location October 15, 2019

The meeting was convened at 6:01pm.

Items for the Good of the Order:

A fellow notes that the Chronicler will not be present at the meeting because of a conflict.

A fellow mentions that dinner cannot be provided prior to meetings until the vacancy in the Order Council is filled.

A fellow reminds the Fellowship about the [Arleigh Williams Forum](#) this Friday, 10/18. It will be held to discuss all forms of campus access.

A fellow mentions the Warden's challenge in regards to going back to our home at the Usual Place. Fellows or others who feel led to contribute to the Order or the Senior Hall Restoration Program can do so at give.berkeley.edu.

After this meeting, there will be two more meetings until our election meeting. Nominations for new fellows will be due on November 12th.

A fellow commented on a previous speaker's remark about the Order Council vacancy, and encourages fellows to begin considering what nominations they would like to submit.

Another fellow reminds us that there is an implicit fourth charge included in our pillars, which is attendance; nominated fellows will need to regularly attend meetings, so they must have a schedule that allows for them to be part of the Order.

A different fellow adds to the previous speaker by emphasizing the diversity within the Order and the ways in which we need to perceive nominations in order to have the most efficient and effective discussions:

1. Do they really want to engage when it is in the best interest of the University?
2. Will they contribute meaningfully to discussions?

Another fellow discusses the importance of the charges of the Order. If prospective nominees are not able to make discussions, they should decline their nomination.

The Warden reminds the Fellowship to sign in to the meetings in order to be able to vote in the elections.

Another fellow clarifies that various fellows may not be able to attend meetings, however, fellows who are thinking of nominating must keep in mind that nominees should attend every meeting, as well as contribute thoughtfully to discussions.

Items for the Good of the University: Life After Cal

The Warden opens the conversation for the Good of the University by providing fellows with several resources pertinent to the evening's topic, including post-graduation survey results for Cal students, which can be found at career.berkeley.edu/Survey/Survey. The Warden poses questions for the Fellowship's consideration, about what post-graduate life looks like for students graduating from the University, and the nature of the alumni experience. The Warden then opens the conversation up for discussion.

A fellow notes that the Cal Alumni Association Board President, Amanda Pouchot, welcomes emails to ideas and suggestions for the Alumni Association. She can be contacted at president@alumni.berkeley.edu

A fellow notes that people with disabilities may have difficulty finding careers after leaving Cal. In the case of visual impairment, there is about a 70% employment rate for people who are blind or legally blind. The fellow continues, saying that the alumni experience itself is unique because some alumni will stay connected, while others will completely disconnect from the University altogether. These alumni may be less inclined to donate back to Cal or stay connected with the campus community if they are far away from Berkeley. The fellow closes by posing a question: what are ways to overcome distance and stay connected to the Cal community?

A fellow insists that when you graduate from the University and get out into the real world, you will actually be surprised at how smart you are. This fellow personally looks for Cal grads when hiring because of how hard they have worked in during their undergraduate years. The fellow believes that Cal students have the upper-leg when applying to jobs after Cal, and many alumni that are not only in the Order, but around

Berkeley as well are valuable resources and are willing to help. Students should take advantage of the alumni resources on campus in order to learn from their experiences.

A fellow said that something they learned after graduation was that the best way to build your career was through your own network. The fellow did not realize at first that the best network they had was fostered at UC Berkeley. The fellow went on to discuss how the Berkeley Career Center that holds networking events, as well as many other valuable events to facilitate a stronger relationship between undergraduate students and Cal alumni.

A fellow commends the previous speakers' comments for discussing the Berkeley Career Network because as an undergrad, they find it very helpful. The fellow also criticizes the Cal curriculum, claiming it stifles creativity within students because of the rigor of education. They mention a theory of education where students are receptacles able to absorb information and replicate what they have learned on an exam. However, this fellow feels that this model has been a topic of discussion amongst a lot of students who question its value, and it is an issue that needs to be addressed.

A fellow would like to address a question posed by the previous speaker regarding Life After Cal to help answer the educational conundrum that was presented. In this fellow's experience, the students at Cal have been most creative when they are not in the classroom. The largest amount of creativity growth in students is usually found outside the confines of the classroom, as they learn skills which are transferable to the real world and develop extremely good work ethics. The fellow also makes general comments on what Life After Cal entails:

1. Mailings from the University seeking money.
2. Support for the Alumni Association (even though you must pay for membership, this fellow believes that the upfront cost is worth the benefits that alumni receive.)

Another fellow posits that distance should not be a reason for alumni to be estranged from the campus community. They reiterate that many alumni are willing to help (even in many different parts of the world), but students need to reach out and take advantage of the resources and opportunities to speak and converse with alumni. There are copious channels for alumni to engage with the campus community, such as mentorships, internships, and a whole host of others. Current students should remember to also turn back and support students once they themselves graduate.

A fellow states that engaging in the Order is currently their only interaction with the campus because they have not been approached by the campus community for other engagement. They believe that alumni may be more involved if there existed other interactions between University and alumnus besides asking for money. The fellow mentions about teaching strategies that they implement with students in order to facilitate engagement.

Another fellow states that a network is a network because pieces are in constant motion rather than stationary. If students can develop an adequate network then it may facilitate increased engagement. The fellow also said that one should be an acting or contributing member of the network: help others, while you are also being helped. One must be willing to give as much as they get from a network. Finally, the fellow mentions that interactive networks are key to improving the type of network and efficiency that that network can provide for you, regardless of age.

A fellow makes a suggestion involving the distance of alumni and asks about regional alumni groups. The fellow touches upon how current students at Cal should not take their time here for granted because they will not have no experience can replicate those that they gained here at Cal. This campus is the best place to develop an adequate network, and students are responsible for reaching out and developing it for themselves. The fellow challenges students to take a piece of paper and write down 10 names, 10 emails, and 10 phone numbers to contact in perpetuity, as a close network like this could help you be successful in your own career. Reaching out to these people could not only change your life, but it could also change the lives of the people that you stay connected with.

Another fellow commends previous speakers and wants to turn the conversation towards resources available for current students. Economics student resources involve an abundance of internships with people who will hopefully give them a job in the future. Astrophysics students are prepared very well for post-Cal life because their department helps make the transition easier. There are indeed an abundance of opportunities here at Cal. This fellow believes that extracurriculars are one extremely important resource that students do not take advantage of enough. If you are not satisfied with the opportunities provided by a club, bring in your own ideas and change the way the club does things.

A fellow comments on the power of networking. UC Berkeley students simply know and value the power of hard work. At other schools, students may be handed things more easily than at Cal, and extracurriculars are a great way for students to find support. It is very stressful for students going through the hiring process, alumni are very appreciated with supporting. Students have to devote as much time as possible to activities here because they are so intense, and this builds a strong work ethic.

A fellow recalls a previous speaker who talked about theories of education, and information dissemination. This fellow recalls their high school experience when they were shown a video, depicting a teacher pouring information into a student's brain. At Cal, you get the information you need to succeed, but it is up to you to determine how to use it. Dare to question it, dare to oppose it, think about it differently. That is all up to the individual student. Another previous speaker discussed classes that seemingly do not provide education you need for the rest of your life, or teach information that is not applicable to the real world. Sometimes, you may not actually be there to learn the

material, but the more valuable lesson may be learning how to cope with hard classes, or sitting through lectures (for many semesters) that you may not find valuable.

A fellow poses that the true measure of success is in reality, perseverance. It is essential to not compare yourself to somebody else. Even though it seems like students at other universities have life handed to them, down the line, it may turn out that the Cal student has far surpassed them. One thing we learn at Cal more than anything else is perseverance, getting through tough circumstances. This fellow strongly disliked law school, but even going through that was a learning experience. A “not giving up” attitude, that toughness, is what really made this fellow successful. All the hard work in seemingly “useless” classes is going to pay off, all that memorization is in itself a skill. Sometimes it might take folks several years before they get the job of choice. In fact, you may have to do grunt work before getting a dream job. In the end, it is the perseverance that prevails. That is really where extracurriculars, and how you help others to get through tough experiences, shine to follow through to that rewarding job. Here you learn how to sharpen your sword.

A fellow echoes comments previously made. One of the major pros of coming to Cal is learning how to learn- this does not end when you graduate. This is essential in an ever-changing world. As a utility-infielder, you can play many positions. This is what it takes to be successful in life (not in monetary terms). You are not going to get to a place where you can look fondly back on your life unless you can learn how to deal with opportunities and problems. Learning how to develop is an essential skill, along with learning how to evaluate situations- there are so many people who are easily influenced by money, power, and status. That is the current state of affairs in the world today. Sometimes there will be a temptation to cut corners, but you have to learn how to make the right decision, and ultimately learn how to learn.

A fellow applauds a previous speaker, and affirms that the University gives you the building blocks, but you have to put them together. This fellow responds to previous fellows who claim there are useless classes and concepts that will not help you later on. Even if you are not going to use something directly, it gives you context. You can understand where other people are coming from, you can more easily make connections with other people. This is the value of Breadths in Letters and Sciences. Regarding things that can help students with life after college: when you are an alumnus, this fellow encourages students to recognize that by being challenged here, being taught to take care of yourself and how to seek out or create resources, these skills allow you to survive professionally. If there is not a manual on how-to, you go make one. If you do not know how to accomplish something, you find the resources to figure it out. There are other institutions where this is not the way it is done. At UCs (Cal and UCLA particularly), they expect you to know how to swim. If you do not, you better learn fast. If you go to the “country club” schools, you get the “spa treatment”; people give you what you need to succeed. Even after you leave, you will encounter others from the club, but ultimately, you will not know how to swim.

A fellow emphasizes the word “team.” While you are at Cal, you are a part of a team. The folks in this room are a team. This is the continuation of having a personal connection, or network. It supplements your families and other communities. It is not something external that keeps you connected to Cal- whatever is going on outside, you keep part of Cal on your inside. The Cal mentality is always a part of you. (Granted, it is easier for this to fade away if you do not stay engaged with the campus). When you leave Cal, life is going to be about trades. You have a certain hand; you have to figure out how to play your cards. You not only learn how to learn; you learn how to create your values. Later on down the road, you will not only fall back on what you learn, you fall back on the values you created and fostered at Cal. You learn how to make tough, value-based decisions.

A fellow touches upon previous speaker’s comments about education. The times this fellow has learned the most are the times they have not succeeded, or have failed. This fellow thinks the learning curve (though it is overwhelming and difficult a lot of the time) produces some of the most valuable experiences. You learn about yourself, and how to navigate similar problems in the future. Overcoming ridiculous amounts of work and difficulties is part of this experience. With regards to expensive opportunities and networking, this fellow tips their hat to the Cal Alumni Association. This fellow took advantage of a CAA event in their hometown area, for something that they were interested in. Though this fellow only really connected with two people, those two relationships with alumni were really valuable. One thing this fellow really finds difficult though, is getting internships as an undergraduate student (in this person’s area of interest). It is really difficult for some students when they feel an overwhelming amount of rejection, when they do not receive desired outcomes. Learning from failures, perseverance, and hard work are essential for life after Cal.

An alumni fellow wants to affirm that they cherish when current students ask them for help. This fellow still loves Cal students, so helping them is a real joy. This fellow remembers a professor they had here- they would always ask whether or not a student had “sufficient evidence to make a generalization,” which is a very profound statement which this fellow has retained throughout their life. This type of general learning is super valuable.

A non-math major fellow who attempted multivariable calculus did not find it that interesting or engaging. This fellow did not put very much work into the class and in the end did not pass because of it. This fellow recalls what it felt like to not be doing well, and not necessarily being the best. This fellow has sympathy for people in these situations, they know what it is like to be failing.

A fellow notices some central themes in the conversation. In the past, the University was a place where people of privileged backgrounds came to pursue knowledge (for the sake of knowledge). Today, the University has evolved to take on more of a vocational role. Today, having a bachelor's degree has become a staple of applying for jobs, and it seems very significant in the workforce. The University has not fully become a place for vocational training, and this fellow is not sure it necessarily should be. It is not all about the information, or just stuff to prepare you for jobs. Also, it does not seem like we engage in critical thinking or discussions in classrooms nearly as much nowadays. It almost seems like some students are just here to get a degree, as if the college experience was just a means to an end. This fellow also wanted to add comments on the difficulties of recruiting today, and comparing UC Berkeley to other universities (which may put social connections above hard work). Though we do value hard work here, there are things that you just cannot learn on your own. About 50% of internships are formed through networks. It took this fellow a long time and many career center visits to figure out that it might take more than hard work in today's climate. We should think more critically about the balance, where the University should be more proactive and step in with additional support.

A fellow agrees with a previous speaker about tensions in what students applying to the University think it will provide for them versus what is actually does provide. The University experience is more than just about getting degrees, it is also about community building. There may be more students looking at the University as a means to a job, because of increased tuition: people may not be able to afford to go here, so all the focus has to be on getting out as soon as possible. Finally, this fellow encourages others to look for a sustainable career that cannot be replaced by technology. Realize that today, a lot of services can be automated, and be ready for a shift in the economy.

The meeting closed with song, and was adjourned promptly at 7:30 pm.

Meeting minutes taken and compiled by a dedicated fellow in the Chronicler's absence.

