



Tonight's discussion featured an open dialogue, especially following up on topics discussed in the previous semester.

Most of the discussion involved revisiting the topic of campus sexual assault. Many Fellows noted that they were encouraged by the steps taken by the University community in the wake of the sexual violence crisis on campus, including starting a campaign promoting campus resources, joining the It's On Us campaign led by the White House, hiring a director of sexual assault prevention and student advocacy, and a UC-wide task force on sexual violence. On the other hand, Fellows also noted that there is much more still to be done, including hiring more staff to assist the new director of sexual assault prevention, finding a better way to adjudicate sexual assault cases, and handling a likely rise in the proportion of cases that are actually reported.

Some Fellows argued that there is not a robust training program regarding sexual violence while other Fellows voiced their experiences in these trainings through their affiliations on campus. Some Fellows mentioned the progress of mandating training programs for all fraternities and Athletics teams. On the other hand, Fellows hinted that members of the University community might not always be receptive to these workshops if they are being told something that is the opposite of what they believe, since seemingly black and white issues indeed have gray areas. Fellows also suggested that there might be a lack of training and awareness for students who are not as involved in on-campus organizations. Some Fellows proposed that additional peer-led programs through the dorms might ease this problem, since 96 percent of students live in the dorms at some point during their tenure at the University. Many Fellows stated that, while it is a step in the right direction, the training at CalSO should be the start and not the end of the sexual assault discussion for students at the University.

Fellows made several cautionary notes as we continue to address the issue of sexual violence. Some Fellows submitted that the policies that we institute must respect the rights of survivors and not force them to report their cases but also make those avenues more accessible. Fellows proposed that we need to eliminate the stigma around reporting sexual violence incidents, and we should look to other successful programs and look to implement and improve them. Fellows noted that we must educate students about sexual violence prior to attending college so that they are more aware of these issues. Some Fellows also noted that we should not place all of the blame on the fraternity system, which would be an easy way to sweep the wider

issue under the rug. Fellows cautioned against thinking of sexual assault as simply a male-on-female issue on college campuses and instead as a matter that takes many different forms in a wide variety of settings. Fellows mentioned that we must also address the alcohol abuse and its contributing factors — including stress — that lead to a large number of these sexual violence cases. Some Fellows noted that we should be empathic to sexual violence survivors, with one Fellow mentioning the extreme situation of using virtual reality to step into the shoes of both potential victims and culprits of sexual assault. Some Fellows also noted that we should not be looking to the administration for answers to solve the problem of sexual violence, but address the issue in our own communities.

The discussion also revisited the topics of health and wellness, diversity, and public identity. Fellows suggested that we need to change the attitude or connotation surrounding mental health. Some Fellows also suggested altering the term “mental health” to “health and wellness” will help eliminate this stigma. Fellows noted that alcohol abuse, an issue strongly connected to sexual violence, is also a symptom of mental health problems. Fellows noted that we must recognize that we are our brother and sister’s keeper and be open and willing to check in on others and help when they are in a time of need. Fellows also noted that education regarding health and wellness is important, especially as many students are living on their own for the first time and have a wide variety of personal backgrounds. Some Fellows mentioned their frustrations as students when mental health concerns are met with a “you get five free sessions at the Tang Center” response. Fellows advocated that the Disabled Students Program (DSP) is not limited to students in wheelchairs and speech impediments and is an overarching program design to help all students that need accommodation to succeed to Berkeley.

Fellows addressed the issue of diversity on the campus, stating that Proposition 209 prevents us from being a more diverse community and having more diversity discussions and opinions presented on campus. Fellows were reminded that the Order was once all male and still largely white, so it is important to consider diversity when nominating people for the Order.

Fellows considered the public identity of the University in the face of the ongoing budget shortfalls from the state. Fellows recognized that our situation might not be as dire as that of University of Wisconsin, where Governor Scott Walker is threatening to cut \$300 million from its budget over the next two years, but the debate between the Regents, University of California, and Governor is ransoming the future of students. Fellows noted that we must articulate the value of and a new master plan for public higher education. A Fellow also mentioned an attempt to create a letter of intent for life for student-athletes, not to necessarily foster donations but instead to grant student-athletes the University as a space they can always visit and value.

The discussion briefly touched on the Black Lives Matter protests that occurred at the end of last semester. Fellows suggested that the University response to the protest lacked substance, only suggesting students and employees to leave campus and hoping that these protests will have minimal impact on campus activity and will remain constructive. Fellows stated that we need to understand how what we do affects others in our community.