



The topic of tonight's discussion concerned campus issues through the "student lens."

The use of alcohol in a social context was the first major topic of discussion. This meeting came just one night after the report of the death of Eloi Vasquez, a sophomore Cal Men's Soccer player who was killed while walking on Interstate 10 in Los Angeles after leaving a fraternity party at the University of Southern California. This meeting also came in light of Professor Robert Reich's recent appearance on *The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore*, in which he declared that all college fraternities should be banned, as they serve no educational purpose. A Fellow stated that they believe that the current group of students will be the last generation that will experience Greek life. They stated their belief that banning fraternities would just push the true problem of alcohol culture to the side, as the Greek community is not the only community that drinks alcohol at social events.

A Fellow noted that the Interfraternity Council officially banned hard alcohol at nearly all events to help cut down on alcohol-related health incidents and community issues. They also mentioned that the Berkeley City Council will consider creating restrictions on houses that houses more than 10 people including having a manager, restricting nighttime events, limiting the number of nonresidents in the house at any time, and controlling the presence and type of alcohol in the house. Another Fellow stated that when someone dies due to binge drinking, it is a symptom of a larger problem even though it is rare. They said that a particular instance of sexual violence is also part of a greater culture. They claimed that service to the University requires examination of what we can do to serve our fellow students in a manner to eliminate those dangers. Another Fellow noted that when the administration acts as a "top-down organization" when administrators believe there is a serious problem in the community. Therefore, they suggested that the best way to address the problem is to address the problem yourself, since you may not like the decision that is made for you (like the decision made for Cloyne Court).

Some Fellows touched on the topic of alcohol education. One Fellow who is a student-athlete said they wished that there were more seminars and group learning opportunities to understand the use of alcohol before being confronted with it in their community. Another student Fellow mentioned that they did not pay much attention to incoming freshman alcohol education and did not drink as a freshman and, thus, had no idea how to approach drinking alcohol when they started drinking as a sophomore.

Much of the discussion also concerned other issues relating campus climate, including addressing sexual violence and personal safety. A fellow stated that there is a kind of bystander effect that exists because the student body is so large and there is no single student experience. They claimed that students are a “community” only in broad terms, such that they may only be the same in how they pay tuition to the Regents of the University of California. They asked us to consider how students can take action in their groups. They also want us to have a conversation about bystander intervention, mentioning that if someone says something that you think is problematic, stand up and say something. Regarding student suicides, another Fellow stated that intervention is difficult, but we need to do more because there is not enough currently being done.

A Fellow noted that students at UC Berkeley tend to be ahead of the curve in identifying problems and helping to find solutions, such as addressing student housing capacity with the acquisition of the Clark Kerr Campus and instituting night safety services, recreation centers, and health services. However, they said that there is very little institutional memory among students. They suggested that the outgoing, future, and former officers in the ASUC and other student organizations discuss their actions, especially agreements with administrators, so they may continue such work moving forward. Another Fellow mentioned that some student organizations have set up ways to reach out to former members to learn from their history, including the Rally Committee’s oral history project and the Cal Band’s interaction with the Cal Band Alumni Association. A Fellow noted that the University community has a great history of activism and fighting, but we need to develop a greater collaborative spirit.

A Fellow who is a graduating senior, considering the idea of legacy, noted that it is sad to see fellow seniors seem to not care about what will not directly affect them, such as the Lower Sproul redevelopment project. Another Fellow stated that it is difficult to get people involved and interested in the campus community, as there is a lack of student unity. They mentioned that CalSO is a transformative, engaging space and wish that we could create additional spaces like CalSO later on in one’s undergraduate career. A Fellow suggested that, when speaking to people about inappropriate behavior, is important to remain civil as they may or may not understand or agree with your viewpoint.

The topic of the discussion shifted to subjects related to the upcoming ASUC election. One associate Fellow said that they did not feel represented by ASUC officials when they were an undergraduate and believe that administrators, faculty, and staff are real people and should be treated accordingly, even just because it does students a disservice to do anything else. Another Fellow advocated for the passage of the wellness referendum, which would increase student fees by 38 dollars to increase Tang Center hours and mental health services, enhance wellness spaces, and promote a sustainable fundraising structure. Another Fellow noted that three of the five referenda include increases in student fees, which seems strangely supported by students while tuition increases are being protested. Fellows are noted that there are not enough mental health resources given to staff and faculty and that there should be a group within the University community to monitor social media posts to help address mental health issues when they arise. Fellows also promoted the community to sign up for WarnMe and download the new free [Emergency Preparedness App](#) for information regarding night safety services, mental health services, weapons and assault, sexual violence, shelters, disability access, and more.

Fellows also discussed the issues relating to academics on campus. A Fellow stated that there needs to be a better system for advising on campus and advocated facilitating more student advising while further promoting and improving existing tools. They also said striving for excellence causes a lot of unnecessary competition among students, and students should be looking to helping other students. Another Fellow suggested that the Order nominate more faculty members to the Fellowship to hear about student experiences. A student Fellow noted that freshman and sophomore seminars are a great facilitative space to bring diverse group together for discussion and we could possibly look to creating more of those spaces throughout undergraduate careers. They also noted that there is a bigger difference between the communities in their two majors with a more closely knit departmental community correlated with participation in courses through instruction and organizing related clubs. A Fellow suggested that students and alumni need to keep their voices heard with the state government and send a message that the University brings wealth, knowledge, and prosperity to the state.

Finally, the discussion also turned to strengthening the University's connection with young alumni and establishing a lasting connection with graduating seniors. A Fellow compared their experience as a UC Berkeley graduate living in San Francisco and their brother's experience as an Ivy League alumnus also living in San Francisco. They noted that his brother has been invited to significantly more alumni events in San Francisco in just the past few months. They suggested that this lack of events might be part of the reason why many Cal alumni feel disconnected from the University. Another Fellow mentioned that alumni who have donated in the past should not be the only ones asked to give back and be connected to the University. A Fellow noted that alumni groups create their own environment, but they require initiative to become successful. Another Fellow stated that we do not have many alumni engagement events because we do not have significant financial support from the state, and alumni should provide updated contact information to be invited when these events and other opportunities happen. Another Fellow noted that there does not always need to be collaboration with the Cal Alumni Association to set up an alumni event, but the Cal Alumni Association reaching out and working together on these projects more would be nice.