



The topic of tonight's discussion concerned student life with respect to campus space.

There were many recent developments regarding campus spaces, including the opening of Lower Sproul in the fall, the renovation of Haas Pavilion, Maxwell Family Field, and Underhill, RSSP's move from Student Affairs to Real Estate, the failure to guarantee housing to incoming students, and vast difference in access to facilities for student groups.

Much of the early discussion concerned the proposed construction of the Richmond Global Campus. Fellows noted this plan includes the development of the Richmond Field Station, a 140-acre property owned by the University of California, with partnerships with universities from around the world to tackle research related to global problems. They also remarked that there is a movement led by the Respect Richmond Coalition and Student Labor Committee to get the University to sign a community benefit agreement for the development of the Richmond Global Campus, as Richmond is the poorest community in the Bay Area. Some Fellows asserted that the campus community should be working to help with issues of poverty and gentrification in Richmond.

Fellows also addressed issues related with respect to access to campus spaces. A Fellow noted concern about minimal wheelchair access to the Greek Theatre, especially sad to see, since Berkeley is a leader in disability rights. Another Fellow expressed that the path to Senior Hall needs improvement for wheelchair accessibility. In response to a protest blocking Sather Gate earlier in the day, some Fellows requested that protestors be considerate to their fellow members of the campus community, especially those who have mobility issues.

Many Fellows also stressed the need to create more gender-neutral bathrooms on campus to make sure people feel comfortable. One Fellow noted that we must ensure we are not reducing overall access to bathrooms by placing locks on doors, and we need to do a better job to maintain the cleanliness of campus bathrooms. This Fellow also expressed concern about "cruisers" in Wheeler Hall bathrooms. Some Fellows also promoted the inadequacy of recreational spaces. One Fellow noted that with varsity, club, and intramural teams on campus fields much of the day, it is difficult to find a place to just throw a football around. They suggested that there should be a better relationship between Athletics, other teams, and students to take care of these spaces such that we can all use them together.

The discussion also focused on dorm housing. While campus housing is now strongly prioritized for incoming students, many Fellows noted there are significant concerns from these students and their parents, which could completely alter their college choice. One Fellow stated that it is difficult to appear welcoming as a university when an incoming student does not know if they will have a place to live.

A Fellow noted that Fall Program for Freshmen students have not been guaranteed for years, but another Fellow mentioned that there is a new option for spring admits to take their first fall semester classes in London. A Fellow asserted that a dorm life provides an unmatched opportunity to learn and meet new people. They also noted that UCLA had a housing crisis in 2013 and decided to build more housing in a similarly constrained area to address it. As we have the second most expensive housing program in the country, some Fellows said we must promote that profitability does not necessarily equal success.

A considerable portion of the discussion centered on the issues of student organizations related to campus facilities. One Fellow estimated that 90 percent of financial need by ASUC organization is for facility use. They noted that the limit on free rooms is a huge problem, and there is something twisted that students pay tuition and student fees, get back the student fees for their organizations, and then pay the University with their student fee allocation. Some Fellows suggested that students lobby the Academic Senate to be more liberal in opening their spaces for student group use. A Fellow submitted that dorm common rooms are not accessible to most students and student organizations. Another Fellow stated that they have struggled to get performance spaces for their theater group, including last-minute room cancellations and making fake organizations as an extreme measure to receive additional spaces.

Some Fellows felt it is absurd that room reservation requests are manually processed in Sproul Hall, which creates issues like two simultaneous events, including DeCals and final exams, set in the same room. Some Fellows also noted the high costs to student organizations to reserve spaces such as Zellerbach Auditorium and the Chevron Auditorium and that these departments would choose to let the space lay fallow than hosting a student group event. Some Fellows suggested local community facilities, including religious spaces, as a short-term cost-effective option.

Cal Band's particular facilities predicament became a notable focus of discussion. A Fellow submitted that the band's field practice time changed from 4:30-6:30 p.m. to 6:00-8:00 p.m. for the first time in nearly 50 years last semester, and practices would often be impeded to football practices extending beyond the typically allotted time. Over the course of the fall season, they stated the band lost about 40 members, more than double the normal attrition rate for a normal season, as the band's overall academic performance slumped due to the late practice time. They noted that the lights in Memorial Stadium were even turned off on the band during the middle of practice. Now, Athletics has proposed even later practices from 7:00-9:00 p.m. or facilities that do not adequately suit the band's needs while not negotiating with the band directly.

A Fellow suggested that the University would not have a band like the quality that has stood for decades if campus administrators are not open to listening to student organizations like

the Cal Band. In response to the band's current issues, another Fellow asserted that the band should go on strike if the problems are that serious: do not march out of North Tunnel, read a statement, and do a concert on Piedmont Avenue instead. Another Fellow suggested that the band and other student groups reach out to alumni for support and institutional knowledge. Another Fellow emphasized that Cal Football is monopolistic over space and feels the band's concerns over facility use. They noted that these athletes often do not want these spaces because it means more time moving between spaces and hauling equipment, but these decisions come from the top. They suggested that the band could create a coalition with athletes to help resolve this issue.

Fellows also sought to discuss underutilized University-owned spaces. One Fellow noted that the back room in Senior Hall is a relatively large space that is mostly unused, but another Fellow noted that the larger front room is available for the entire campus community (with approval) by emailing seniorhall@ogb.berkeley.edu. In response to the movie *BIKES vs CARS*, one Fellow proposed Berkeley could get rid of all parking spaces and used those spaces to help students and create more accessible public transportation. Another Fellow noted that Berkeley has a dearth of hotel rooms and student groups must reserve hotel rooms all over the Bay Area to host large events and conferences.

Although it is a politically sensitive topic and one Fellow stood against this opinion, several Fellows proposed that People's Park is a poor use of space for students and there are certainly ways to address homelessness and similar issues. A Fellow noted that there are some large spaces that could be reconfigured for better use like the transformation of Lipman Room at the top of Barrows Hall into research and office space and the top of Stephens Hall into additional office space. Another Fellow put forth other facilities that may be underutilized, including the conference room inside Crossroads and the Fall Program for Freshmen facility, especially during the spring semester. Another Fellow also noted that online programs like MITx, moving the educational experience outside of a physical classroom, may cause a significant shift in campus facility needs in the long term.

Finally, Fellows turned to potential courses of action that students can take to seek equitable solutions with respect to campus facilities. One Fellow suggested that, if student organizations worked together, they would be an unstoppable force. They proposed that student groups (1) demand an inventory to spaces, (2) demand better facilitation and greater subsidies to rent campus facilities, and (3) maintain their resolve until these demands are met. Another Fellow noted that the University is the quiet phase of the next capital campaign, determining what significant capital priorities need to address over the next several years. They suggested that students convince that improvement of campus spaces itself and facility access are issues that this capital campaign should address. They also suggested that many of these facility issues are exacerbated by the size of the population as the campus was planned for about ten thousand fewer students. Another Fellow advised that students get Chancellor Dirks interested in the issues discussed at this meeting during the fireside chat on Thursday and work as partners, not adversaries, to solve these issues.