



Order of The Golden Bear

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ESTABLISHED 1900

Temporary Meeting Location, February 20th, 2018

UC Berkeley Pride and the Sesquicentennial

The item for the good of the University is UC Berkeley Pride and the connection it has with the university's 150th anniversary celebration.

A fellow opened the discussion by noting that the university's founding took place over a five-year period. In those five years, the regents were appointed, and there was a successful merger of the private College of California and the public Agricultural, Mining, and Mechanical Arts College in Oakland. It was in 1873 that the university moved to this campus and the first graduation was held. It was encouraged that this celebration does not need to be a one-time celebration, instead it should be a sequence of events over five years.

Fellows discussed the impact of athletics as a means of honing school spirit and bringing people together. Individuals are able to represent their school pride wearing gear and attending football games. Further discussion touched upon how for athletics, the sport does not matter as much, instead it is a shared identity where one feels part of a greater whole.

Fellows brought up the way that athletes represent the university when traveling domestically and internationally, and this led to the fact that there are other ways of bearing the California name. Whether it be through competitions, sending students for research or other activities. These experiences help create that shared identity that we strive for.

A fellow discussed the uniqueness of our athletics and university. Football was developed as a school activity in the 1880's, and managed by the student government until 1960. For a good time, only students managed the athletic program, we built the stadium, we built the facilities on behalf of student athletics. Right now, there are less students at athletic events, and we need to work hard to have people get out to celebrate the 150th anniversary.

A fellow touched upon school spirit in terms of social justice movements. Whether it was the Free-Speech movement in the 1960s, the disability rights in the 1970s, or the anti-apartheid movement in the 1980s. That is something that we always take part in, and is something that we should celebrate.

The concept of pride and what it means for each student when they arrive here. Many students take pride in their own accomplishments, whether it be academic or in competitions. Students feel happy about arriving at Berkeley, however there is a dissonance when students get here and feel the system is not working for them. One of the most difficult parts is learning to be critical but also enjoying it at the same time.

A fellow touched upon the difference in outside perspective of Cal vs. Berkeley. Cal is thought of as the athletic and spirit side. On the other hand, talking about Berkeley as the dynamic academic presence of the university. It is necessary to find a medium where both the dynamic aspects come together. Some fellows thought that the distinction between Cal and Berkeley is artificial, due to the fact there is just as much activism prior to 1964 as after, there just haven't been as much publicity.

A fellow brought up the point that student engagement is the cornerstone of the university. While athletics is important and shows off the university on the large stage, it is important to look for pride in other areas such as student organizations, competitions, or research as well. It is important that we look at the academic achievements as a way of sparking pride in many people.

Fellow discussed that there are many enduring qualities since Berkeley's founding that have made it unique compared to other universities. It had gone against being a religious institution, it had accepted women in 1871 (early compared to other universities), and the UC would not discriminate on race or religion. It is a public institution that is owned by the state and we were one of the first universities one could attend without cost.

Fellows touched upon the fact that students are so busy, and the college is so expensive, and many struggle to get out of here on time. They are less concerned about spirit and sports events. We need an opportunity to give students a college experience not just a college degree.

Back on the topic of the 150th anniversary, fellows thought of ways in which more students could feel connected to the university at this moment.

A fellow noted that possibly as part of the 150th anniversary, either this year or over the next 5, to see if students want to create an online scavenger hunt, where they put specific categories and choose periods of time so people realize how ideas and movements knit themselves across the decades.

Another idea was the incorporation of a Cal History and Traditions class on campus. Not a decal, instead possibly a class that can be used for credit (possibly American Cultures). This would create an incentive for students interested in learning more about the Berkeley community and campus to have a formal setting in which they can gain that knowledge.

A fellow spoke upon wanting to see some of the trophies, or other awards in a more public setting in order to help students see what the university has fought for. Also highlighting programs other than athletics, such as when students go to local schools and give back to the community.

One of the last conversations of the meeting entailed the actions being taken by the Cal Alumni Association (CAA) during this anniversary. The CAA has sat with the chancellor and gotten her opinions and thoughts, and they are highlighting 3 main slogans: Go Bears, Fiat Lux, and Brilliance of Berkeley. Each of these slogans look at different aspects of the university's history, in order to look at the things, we have succeeded in as well as the challenges we have faced as well. Doing this in a fun way to instill a more personal connection with the university.

UCOP is also helping celebrate with their own website, 150.ucop.edu, in which there is information that covers every aspect of the university from academics, to athletics, to going to Sacramento to speak to legislators.

The Cal Alumni Association does not have anything planned after May 12th, but they want all students to give them ideas, trying to find out what makes them proud to be at Cal, letting the students of today give their thoughts.

