

Order of The Golden Bear

ΔΙΩΚΩ

ESTABLISHED 1900

October 12, 2021

The meeting was convened at 6:03 pm.

Items for the Good of the Order:

- The Warden reminds the Fellowship of the Order Council meetings taking place on the “Off” Tuesdays
- The Warden thanks those who attended the Arleigh Williams Forum back during Homecoming week
- A Fellow asks for the presentation from the CFO to possibly be made public? It would be good to have the factual data from the finances for future discussions

Items for the Good of the University: The Availability, Acquisition, and Distribution of Resources

On the topic of Discussion on The Availability, Acquisition, and Distribution of Resources:

- A Fellow begins with asking about three pieces of information:
 - What is the division of resources among colleges and departments across campus?
 - Ongoing negotiation with campus and the Union representing lecturers - possible strike, but what are the negotiations going to look like?
 - How is the relationship between the Student Union, LEAD center, and Campus Affairs
 - Over time, how does the campus intend to address the equity issues to allow students to be fully able to participate in student groups and student government without any outside obligations?
- A Fellow brings up a discussion about Registered Student Organizations

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- These groups are critical for student life and engagement for the overall campus experience
- Who decides how much money the ASUC gets to distribute to RSO's?
- This Fellow shares experiences from the UC Rally Committee having to rent out the Greek Theater, a space originally built for the Big Game Bonfire Rally, for over \$30,000 a year to host an event for students
- This Fellow poses the questions of what the campus values in terms of student groups, as in how much money gets diverted back towards the students and what the students are in need of and what contributes to their overall student experience
- A Fellow, a former Finance Committee Chair, answers some questions raised from a previous Fellow
 - This Fellow shares that there are restrictions on the distribution of funding towards RSO's
 - How do we work around the issue of having so many important student groups while maintaining and improving equity
- A Fellow follows up on the topic of funding distribution from ASUC:
 - The Fellow discusses their experience as being a member of groups who both received a large amount of funding and groups who received much less funding
 - How does the oversight work in these decisions as to which groups receive more than others?
 - This Fellow highlights that the EECS department relies a good amount on unpaid, volunteer labor and services (CSM, etc.)
 - It is great that members of the Cal community are willing to give back to students, but the EECS department should not be reliant on this goodwill
 - The allocation of resources for Teaching Assistants is not enough to meet the demand and needs of the students
 - Professors and TAs are going above and beyond in terms of trying to meet the needs of students, but they do not have the bandwidth to continue to support

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- In previous years, the EECS department scheduled hours just under the requirement for tuition reimbursement (lawsuit filed by student TA union)
- Across Campus, the number of TAs on Course Staff is not meeting the increasing population of students in specific departments
- A Fellow responds to a previous speaker's points:
 - This Fellow highlights that the University is built on a number of communities that share a common goal
 - We are talking about an Organization (The University) the size of a small city, and this requires these types of discussions to be held at higher levels
 - This Fellow calls for the financial presentation from the CFO to be made public so that we can have these discussions at all levels
 - This Fellow emphasizes that Student Groups are the lifeblood of the campus, and they are critical in shaping the various members of the University
 - In the Graduate Experience - the University expects Faculty to produce research, but this expectation is not possible without the work from the Graduate Students
 - Graduate Students are receiving guidance, mentorship, and opportunities, but they should not be taken advantage of
 - This Fellow states that as a Lecturer, they are unable to maintain a good quality of life in the Bay Area
 - This Fellow states that lecturers work multiple jobs just to stay afloat
 - This Fellow recognizes that this is currently a fixed pie problem
 - There is a great challenge in bringing resources to Campus
 - Even in trying to make the pie bigger, we must discuss how to overcome the barriers to bringing such resources to campus
- A Fellow reminds about the complexity of the University's budget
 - This Fellow recognizes that the University Administration is doing the best they can in the current climate
 - But many Fellows have been asking for a bit more transparency in how such decisions are being made
 - This Fellow asks for more representation from various groups around Campus in how financial decisions are made for the University

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- Bring the Constituents into the discussion about how decisions are being made on their behalf
- This Fellow states that the University makes a strong effort to continuously fund the Athletics Department, but is there the same amount of effort put into funding Student Groups and other Communities on Campus
- A Fellow calls back to the discussion of increasing the revenue:
 - What do we need to do in order to have more alumni make donations back to the school
 - We are not talking about multi-million dollar checks, but average checks
 - What can we do as a university to have current students donate back once they graduate?
- A Fellow returns to a previous speaker's point about the economic status of the University:
 - How do we not only stay out of the red, but contribute to the black on the financial ledger line?
 - Encourage fellows/alumni to take part in the Big Give
 - This Fellow shares that the views from their peers towards the University are pretty cynical:
 - They state that the opinions are along the lines of "I paid my tuition, I worked a couple jobs, I barely scraped by, that's enough"
 - How do we focus on highlighting the effects that Cal has on their daily life after Graduation
 - This Fellow states that letters in the mail are not the most enticing of methods to get people to donate back
 - Philanthropy is the most likely the best way to increase the pie? We can't necessarily wait on the state to return our funding to pre-2008/pre-Covid levels
- A Fellow states that they too do not enjoy receiving mail from the University on the topic of donations
 - This Fellow highlights the importance of both smaller and larger donations and their impacts on campus
 - This Fellow shares that there is a sentiment that fundraising has not been directly for Undergraduate students

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- Fundraising might be the best path forward to go beyond just keeping the wheels going
- Based on previous trends, we are close to reaching a level of fundraising on the order of a \$1Bn a year
- This Fellow shares that we have all the pieces to have alumni to consistently donate back, but we are about 50 years behind on the culture
- What can we continue to do to invest in students to improve the culture and attitude towards the University
- A Fellow reminds the Order that March 10 is the Big Give and November 30 is Giving Tuesday
 - Big Give is the best way to donate directly to Student Organizations
 - A big focus for the administration is to increase funding for Scholarships (up to \$300M)
 - The LEAD Center is now receiving direct funding from sources other than the Student Union (more funding available this way)
 - It is our duty as members of the university to use the Services provided by the university to continue to fund back to Campus
- A Fellow states that we need to continue to keep the pressure on the State Government to increase our funding back to pre-Covid levels
 - This Fellow also states that since the Campus held tuition constant for 10 years, this could be a source of the problems that we are currently facing
 - There are a number of factors that are contributing to the major financial problems of the University
 - The CSUs have the advantage of being present in more counties around the state, we don't have the leverage on local governments
- A Fellow wants to respond to previous speakers' points regarding the cost of living in the Bay Area:
 - The Fellow agrees that it is very expensive to live here in the Bay Area
 - Having been here for 4 years, this Fellow is not yet able to afford a living situation comparable to what they had as a graduate student in other states
 - This Fellow recalls the mindset of "If you work hard, go to school (even graduate school), then you will be successful"

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- This Fellow states that appropriate compensation is important to get people to reach the level of being ok, and once they reach that point, then they might be more inclined to donate back
- This Fellow wonders what happens when you give people just a little bit more to put them into a position to be comfortable with donating back
- A Fellow recalls back to the constant levels of tuition:
 - The cost of out-of-state tuition is scheduled to continue to increase by up to \$8,700 more than current levels - could decrease the share of out of state students, since we don't know how many people are going to be willing to take these higher costs of attendance
 - This Fellow states that Berkeley has one of the worst rates of self-help (expected individual contribution towards tuition) compared to the other schools in the UC System
 - This Fellow calls for more transparency in terms of the expected plans of how the money is going to be spent
 - This Fellow states that we have lower diversity rates, lower graduate school prospects
 - The Fellow claims that the lack of diversity and the lack of funding towards student groups is a major reason why
- A Fellow states that their spouse was a double-Cal grad (Undergrad and Masters), yet they had not donated to the University until this Fellow came to Cal
 - This Fellow admits that they have not done a great job targeting specific generations of Cal Grads who have amassed a good amount of wealth, yet have not donated back to the University
- A Fellow admits that not every alumni from their generation is aware of the importance of State Funding towards the university
 - Other Universities do a great job of educating members of the community about what the University provides for them
 - We need to do a better job of fostering a strong culture among undergraduates early on
 - How do we build tithing into the culture of a University that is state funded?
 - We can do a better job of raising a good amount of funding from our own community

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- This Fellow states that there needs to be more input from the people who understand the importance of regenerating funding

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

Meeting Minutes taken and compiled by the Chronicler for the Order.