

October 9th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Topic: Safety and Health: Awareness, Planning, Action

Meeting Called to Order: 6:02PM

Items for the Good of the Order:

- A fellow recognizes acting Steward for procuring tonight's pre-meeting dinner.
- The Alumni Secretary reminds the Order about the elections coming up at the end of this Fall semester. This fellow urges other fellows to start thinking about potential candidates for nomination.

Items for the Good of the University:

On the Topic of: Safety and Health: Awareness, Planning, Action

- A fellow opens the conversation by recognizing a recent drive-by shooting that happened near campus.
 - The event happened around 1:00am on 10/09/22 at the Durant food court near campus.
 - No student in university was part of the group that was shot.
- A fellow wonders what the UC Police Department is doing in response to this tragedy.
 - Other than an UC Warnme alert email, there has been no communication from UCPD or campus leadership addressing this event.
 - Recently there was an armed robbery that occurred near campus. It seems like there is an increase in crime.
- A fellow provides context over UCPD and crime.
 - This fellow comes from a background with over a decade of experience working in Berkeley campus safety and asserts that UCPD does a reemarkable job based on the resources that they are given. There has been a decline in police officers. UCPD is at minimum staffing due to a constrained budget.
 - UCPD is looking for a new police chief, Margo Bennet is the current acting police chief.
 - Crime has precipitated drop off once entering campus.
 - Southside falls in the jurisdiction of Berkeley Police Department rather than UCPD.
 - There is an increase in wild crime throughout the country. This isn't only happening to Berkeley campus.
 - It is part of UCPD's duty to register incidents happening on and near campus. But it's important to keep in mind that the dynamics of safety changes when those activities are happening late at night.
- A fellow adds to the context provided by the previous fellow

- UCPD is responsible for the general Berkeley campus, People's Park, Albany Village, and Richmond Field station. The same folks that protect the main campus handles all of these other areas.
- UCPD is currently finalizing the selection process of a new chief.
- A fellow acknowledges a previous fellow's point on jurisdiction and poses the question – What is UCPD doing to work with BPD to handle the streets in between main campus, people's park and student housing near campus?
 - Due to the proximity to campus of these crimes, students are affected.
- A fellow responds to the previous fellow's question.
 - Those streets are under Berkeley PD's jurisdiction. Campus will provide aid when requested.
- A fellow makes a comment about individual preparedness.
 - Walking down during past 1 am is not safe. Students should look out for themselves and practice individual preparedness.
 - Individual preparedness should also be applied to natural disasters – '89 Earthquake and '91 Firestorm. When huge emergencies happen, infrastructure goes down. We cannot rely on cell phones. Phone calls can get out, but calls cannot get into the area.
 - Cell phones will not work, but landlines will sometimes still work. This fellow recalls that landlines will not immediately get a dial tone, but if the caller stays on more than 5 seconds, it will eventually establish a connection.
- A fellow makes a comment about incidents during their time at Cal.
 - 1962 Freshman at Cal, the same problems existed on campus. There was a brutal murder in the Underhill parking lot. Crime is not new to the campus.
 - There were bombs placed on campus during the '60s. There are now protocols regarding bomb threats on UC Berkeley campus.
 - It's important to save all the emergency phone numbers into your phone.
 - This fellow seconds the previous fellow's point of individual preparedness – can't always rely on campus to protect us, we have to take responsibility to take care of ourselves.
- A fellow voices their concerns regarding crime's effect on the University's reputation.
 - Many prospective students put emphasis on the consideration of safety and crime when picking a University.
 - The fellow recalls hearing the following:
 - One should never get a bike in Berkeley because it always gets stolen.
 - Can't keep your laptop out as it will get swiped by a thief.
 - What can the University in conjunction with the City do? It seems like there's a lack of communication between the two.
- A fellow comments on sexual violence in UC Berkeley.

- In 2021, 225 cases of sexual violence were reported. Berkeley is ranked very high among other universities in terms of the number of sexual violence.
 - UC Berkeley is under scrutiny from the Federal government.
 - Path to care is engaging in a very heated battle with the federal government over their reporting and confidentiality.
 - There is a chance that any incident that is reported to the path to care will result in a campus wide notification similar to the warnme emails.
- A fellow asks for clarification on the Clery act and another fellow responds:
 - The Clery Act is a mandate from the Department of Education. It requires all colleges and universities that receive federal financial aid programs to keep and disclose information about crime on and near their respective campuses.
 - Anytime there is an ongoing threat, there needs to be a timely report.
 - Reports include acts of sexual violence.
 - It originated from an incident that could have been prevented if previous incidents were known about.
 - Campus will be forced to let everyone know that an incident happened if someone went to Path to care for assistance.
 - It would be anonymous, but having everyone getting a notification even if it doesn't say your name would be a huge deterrent in sexual violence survivors seeking care.
- A fellow voice shared concern. There is significant underreporting to SVSH and there needs to be careful thought over whether the changes would be an additional deterrent.
 - This push for change is coming from the Department of Education and the University of California. There is no specific person pushing.
 - The UC is looking for a Title 9 advisory board.
- A fellow provides information regarding Path to Care and the the process of seeking justice for sexual violence.
 - Can legal action be pursued while maintaining confidentiality?
 - What is done is really up to the survivor.
 - Sometimes the survivors want to report and sometimes they don't.
 - Litigation is a long and hefty process and many choose not to pursue it.
 - There is a Restorative Justice Center on campus.
 - When someone approaches Path to Care, they are provided with all of the options.
 - Path to Care gives them the option of confidentiality.
 - Survivors can choose whether to take it to the Police Department or Title VI office.
- A fellow makes comments regarding the mental health resources on campus.
 - There are more and more instances of students falling prey to stress. The fellow expresses general frustration with academic rigor to Berkeley, housing issues, club culture, and hazing

- The fellow has personally taken advantage of the Tang Center's mental health resources in terms of Tela Doc and highly recommends it.

- A fellow adds to the previous speaker's comments regarding club culture and hazing.
 - Hazing happens in both Social and Professional fraternities. It also happens in sororities.
 - There have been many recent incidents regarding hospitalization from alcohol abuse. Many of the business fraternities have been disaffiliated.

Discussion Adjourned at 7:30 PM.

The Meeting closed with Song, and notes were compiled by the Chronicler