# Order of The Golden Bear

δι⍵́κω

ESTABLISHED 1900

Usual Place, September 5, 2023

The meeting was convened at 6:03 PM

**Items for the good of the Order:**
New Term administrative/logisical announcements.
Election of a new Chronicler.
Discussion of the Steward and Scribe roles.
Annual forum honoring Arleigh Williams's services and legacy to UC Berkeley.

**Items for the good of the University: New Technologies on Student Wellbeing**
- *How do new technologies affect student learning and well-being?*
- *What new technologies serve as aids to learning? How can these technologies be used to either replace or enhance current student support methods?*
- *How has education changed or not changed, and what aspects of learning are important to protect?*
- *What technologies can be improved upon in the community? Which sectors of the university would benefit from this?*
- *Potential subtopics to consider:*
    - *Disability accommodations*
    - *Artificial Intelligence models (e.g., Chat GPT)*
    - *Virtual learning models (Zoom, asynchronous, recorded lectures, etc.)*
    - *Affordability and accessibility*

- The warden opens the floor for discussion.
- A Fellow talked about their experience as a GSI for a class. The Fellow argued that AI is harming critical thinking for humanities majors. The University has the ability to teach critical thinking without relying on AI chatbots. Regardless, the Fellow argues, with Chat GPT, you still need critical thinking. It is a matter of realigning and evaluating classical approaches to fit the current ones.
- A Fellow reflects on their professional experience as a machine learning model creator. The Fellow adds that even if there is no technology to flag the use of large language models, researchers are putting watermarks on the app to flag when plagiarism is occurring. The Fellow expresses their thoughts on the evolving policies that various professors/instructors are taking around Chat GPT. They are happy to see how many are aligning.
- Another Fellow adds on the benefits of Chat GPT. They reflect on how it has helped them with editing and making text more advanced. To avoid plagiarism concerns and to show professors/instructors that students are the sole proprietors of their work, the Fellow suggested an option to submit a rough draft

that was generated with Chat GPT along with the finalized Chat GPT outcome. AI is helpful for double-checking mistakes in homework.

- A Fellow shifts the conversation to the benefits of AI and mental health. They mentioned how using AI to "vent a little bit" has better mental health outcomes.
- Another Fellow agrees that AI Chatbots have proven to have positive outcomes for particular students of color at Georgia State University. By incorporating large language models and AI Chatbots, the rate of dropout rates decreased for Latinx and African Americans. Enrollment rates also went up. The fellow noted that students were more comfortable asking more questions to the chatbot.
- Another Fellow expresses their concerns about instructors/professors being afraid of AI and, as a result, having students do in-class timed assignments. Timed in-class assignments are dangerous. The Fellow voices that faculty wants to keep the "old-fashioned" way or "this is always the way we've done it" mentality. The Fellow calls for technology to be embraced and not create barriers around its usefulness. Chat GPT should be useful in an academic setting. However, the Fellow acknowledged that there are access and data privacy implications.
- A Fellow points out how technology enables a less collective experience for students during class. The Fellow recalls students during class playing games, texting, reading other books, online shopping, and checking emails. It is a pseudo-productivity.
- Warden urges Fellows to start providing solutions for the last 10 minutes of the meeting.
- A Fellow highlights that the generative AI movement is growing and is powerful. Technological advancements will become a big part of our lives. They provide two insights:
  - There needs to be good governance and application around current and new emerging technologies.
  - Embrace these technologies.
- Another Fellow agrees with the previous Fellow that technology is becoming and will become more prominent in society.
- Another Fellow talks about how it has become much quicker for them to find different voices when writing thanks to Chat GPT (e.g., Law, Political Economy, Philosophy, etc.). They are still concerned about how we think about plagiarism.
- A Fellow suggests that faculty ought to understand the assigned work to students. The Fellow suggests that instructors/professors make questions more complex for students, so there is critical thinking to do. A Fellow provides more solutions:
  - Enhance the complexity of prompts.
  - Use TurnedIn (shows % of word repetitiveness).
  - Leverage B-courses. The Fellow highlights how remarkable this platform is because of the amount of resources that can be stored to make students not spend money on books.
  - Disabled Students' Program (DSP). Have DSP students request specific features they need from their counselors.
    The Fellow ends their remark by agreeing with the previous speaker about the inevitability of Chat GPT.
- A Fellow posts a question: "What is the takeaway of an assignment?" The Fellow claims that students are not fully engaged in their assignments because students are wired to focus on just completing assignments instead of learning when the teaching is more interactive/engaging. The Fellow calls for finding ways to innovate the classroom and polish the educational approach.
- Another Fellow states that the solution is two-sided. It falls on students and faculty.
  - On one hand, students must learn more about the ramifications of technology.

- ○ Equally important, faculty should leverage chatbots as a teaching tool.
- A Fellow expresses that professors/instructors/faculty should stop dancing around Chat GPT. The Fellow suggests:
  - ○ Faculty should have a clause on their syllabus, clarifying whether it is expected to use Chat GPT.
  - ○ People should get a crash course on how to use Chat GPT to facilitate its use.

Discussion Adjourned at 7:30 PM.

The Meeting closed in Song. Notes were compiled by the Chronicler.