

Order of The Golden Bear

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ESTABLISHED 1900

Usual Place, October 31, 2023

The meeting was convened at 6:01 PM.

Items for the good of the order:

Dinner concern: Fellows have raised concerns within the fellowships as they come to eat, and leave prior to the meeting without signing up at all.

Elections coming up: Be mindful of the individuals who we want to bring into the fellowship. Bring people who can disagree while upholding the three charges.

Items for the good of the University: Campus Vendors and Contractors

Protest during USC vs. Cal Game:

- A fellow brings the attention to all attendees Protest that took place during the USC vs Cal game to reinstate professor Ivonn.
- A fellow speaks on the matter and encourages all to wait until more information is available.
- A fellow points out that no protest has taken place during the football game over the past 30 years.
- Another fellow builds off, and emphasizes the power of advocacy.
- In the same vein, the fellow encourages all fellows to support UC Rally committee and joining all the events to keep fostering the university's school spirit, and join

Anti-semitic and Proud Boys Article:

- A fellow brings to attention an article that emphasizes and tone taken in an article around anti-semitic and the proud boys. Concerned about the ongoing worldly issues. Calls for peaceful resolution.

Prior to introducing the topic, the Warden urges fellows to be mindful of their comments, connect their input to the campus, and if fellows chose to speak about specific facts, they should cite their source. All these as a measure of caution given rise of misinformation.

Discussion Points:

- How Does the Campus and the Campus Community Respond to Geopolitical Conflict?
- Do we exacerbate it in our own little microcosm?

- Do we deal with these things constructively?
- Do we bring the conflict into our own community when triggered by a global event and how do we handle those triggering moments?
- How do we find common ground as students who aren't actively part of the conflict?
- Is it necessary to try to find common ground to understand each other?
- How well do we support members of our campus community who are directly impacted by these conflicts?
- Ripple effects of the IMF and the World Bank across the world as it pertains to the University
- How do students educate themselves on global issues?
- Does the media shape the way that the campus and campus community perceive geopolitical conflicts?
- Do corporations affiliated with the University influence the way that the campus and campus community perceive and respond to geopolitical conflicts? (Ex: Nike, Pepsi, Apple, Dell, etc.)

Warden opens the floor for discussion.

- A Fellow adds a question: How does the teaching ideologies in school shape students perspective?
- A Fellow speaks about a dividing line, where it's acceptable to say that policies of any government or political entity are illegitimate. What is not acceptable is when countries or entities deny the existence of particular types of peoples, especially if they are not deemed of human rights. As an instance, the fellow mentions the recent homophobic remarks from the new speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Another fellow was concerned about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The fellow said that it is unfortunate that many people are dying, and wanted to hear a broader perspective around this issue. The fellow shifted his attention to attendance, emphasizing how during this discussion there were more associates than current students, which he argues comes from the level of sensitivity and vulnerability that one has to show when discussing these global matters. The fellow also points out that Gen-Z has a different methodology to obtain their news, and information about doing things – because everyone does things differently.
- Another fellow points out that social media is the a place where misinformation is massively spread.
- A Fellow brings back the lack of attendance from undergraduate fellows, and points out that it is a cry for undergrads to come more to meetings.
- Another fellow speaks on what the university's role should be:
 - Teach students to have tough discussions and disagree in a healthy way.
 - The university should emphasize the value of free speech, but students should be aware of how to approach the issues at hand in a productive way.
 - The university community focused on winning the battles, university should provide an outlet to mediate these discussions/disagreements.
- Wardens posted a question about the university's role shaping global entities, politics and overall policies.
- A fellow speaks on the matter – university's role in geopolitical events.

- An example they bring to the conversation is the the university helped create the anti-Apartheid movement South Africa.
- The fellow urges the clarification of the term “University,” because there exist many subsets of the university like the Regents, who have many millions invested in companies that harm societies. Which the fellow connects to the concept of free speech. Based on the fellow’s experience on the free speech movements, they argue that the university has been vague for years about free speech.
- Another Fellow half-agrees and disagrees. The fellow mentions remarkable individuals that have brought societal change and argues their beginnings and influence started at the University.
 - The fellow contends, Mario Sabrio, Nelson Mandela, Dr. King, People’s Park and Malcom X started here (as in the University).
 - The fellow asserts that the University partially contributes to global issues, but also produces solutions – because, at times, it is not in their best interest.
 - The Fellow expressed concerns about the ongoing Palestinian-Israel divide. Especially, with the labels one (protester) gets when they exercise their right to protest, especially in Berkeley. The fellow remarks that Berkeley (as in the University) is a place for change.
- Another Fellow shifts the focus of the conversation to the possibility to have distinguished faculty speaking and disseminating their vast and different perspectives to educate other students. In that way setting the stage and encouraging healthy exchange of ideas and opinions.
 - The Fellow adds that the University has been slow to respond to these issues. The University should act on this because the institutions has people who are experts and can educate the campus communit, which is much better than having social media misinformation.
 - A Fellow mentions that “we” should be realistic of the political ramifications of the University and should be aware that the Campus cannot take and jump to take a side. Instead, the university has the obligation to educate all. It is not so much what you believe, rather how you say it. People ought to be more aware of these conflicts.
 - The fellow ends their remarks by urging faculty to encourage students to speak.
- Another fellow extends the invitation to an educational occurrence on campus. The topic: Gaza Teaching by professor Gates.
- A Fellow asked about the existence of the ASUC front, and measures they are taking to address the ongoing campus issues.
- Another fellows sheds light onto the question.
 - ASUC is not working to co-existing; rather, everyone is trying to call each other out.
- Another fellows shifts the conversation to having professors teaching.
 - Fellow argues that teaching can be effective, but got to be mindful of conflicting ideas.
 - Fellow also touches upon the last Fellow’s point on the ASUC’s “calling out” culture being damaging.

- Fellow adds that Former Warrier used to be Secretary of Defense, and president of the IMF. The fellow states that whether we liked it or not the university has been a pipeline for the good, and also for those that have not necessarily done the best for humanity.
- Another fellow believed that all humans are interconnected, akin to the butterfly effect.
 - Fellow suggested to fellows to watch the Social Networks, and educate themselves on how social media platforms meddle and affect the human psyche.
 - The fellow shares his spiritual journey, and calls everyone to be in the present. The fellow emphasizes that conversations and actions have consequences.
- Another fellow clarifies his remarks about activism on campus.
 - Fellow argues that there is so much tension from both ends, and the intensity ought to be brought down. Not to tear each other down.
 - Suggests having two faculty members with different perspectives and showcasing how to productively disagree and respect each other's opinions. Learn how to have respectful dialogue.
 - The fellow mentioned how in the past Berkeley Democrats and Republicans held debates, and tried to find a middle ground and created space for their humanness.
- Another fellow posts three reflections:
 - It is easy to hide behind political issues and claim that there are no human rights. It is hard to get into politics when there are collective egregious punishment.
 - The fellow stresses the importance of not wanting a double standard and recognizing who can feel pain and expect empathy. It is a critical to find common ground. Adds that the overload of social media misinformation, and disinformation shapes these perspectives.
 - The Fellow agrees with the another fellow that stated that the temperature should not going down until human rights are recognized. The fellow adds that the idea of neutrality diminishes the active role that students or institutions we are part of have on this matter. And further emphasizes their agreement to calls for non-violence and for continued spotlight until there is common ground based on human rights and not politics.
- Another Fellow expands on the issue of temperature on campus.
 - The fellow suggests being conducive and reading into the grief before saying things that probably people might not mean.
- Another Fellow wanted to clarify some comments. The fellow acknowledged that people want things to be "nice and orderly," but sometimes things do not turn out that way.
 - Fellow adds that bringing the temperature down for moral convenience is not good. Instead, bringing down the temperature so all can have a conversation is better a good approach being condescending.
 - The fellows hoped that there would be policy and economics disagreements.
- Other fellows suggest abiding by the charge. The fellow points out the privilege to express openly given the fellowship's charges. Therefore, the fellow implored everyone to think about this privilege and be more mindful about it.

- A fellow stated that conflict is necessary for social change. The fellow is struck by the dialogue between students and emphasizes the importance of understanding why and how students cannot express their opinions and how to build the skill sets to deal with and express their emotions.
- A fellow brings back the conversation around temperature.
 - The fellow urges to be mindful of how much people have to lose on both sides.
- A fellow is heartbroken at the fact that healing and mediations and constructive dialogue are not being promoted and advocated as they should. If they are, they should not ignore the urgency of the situation.
- A fellow responded to a question: Did has faculty moderated debates between student Republicans and Democrats at Cal? The fellow shared their experience moderating and expressed that this is valuable because it promotes active listening, as the conversations are around heated and sensitive topics.
- Another fellow speaks about the teaching event on campus, which, they added, will be livestreamed on YouTube.
- Another fellow shares an anecdote about using Facebook to engage in discussions on hot topics.
 - The fellow added that when affirmative action was in full wing, they posted on Facebook, and got picked up by an organization because of their thoughts.
 - In connection to the fellow's anecdote and finding middle ground, the fellow suggested having decal classes to keep conversations going in a civil and respectful action.
- A fellow suggest a solution:
 - The fellow suggest to bring up the fact that "this campus is a leading" instution and is looked in a good light because of the way in which it handles situations.
- The fellow states and questions that they have not heard about nor have they have not gotten any examples how the campus helps its domestic and world communities. The fellow asks: Why is that?
- Another fellow suggested we all making our voices heard, and use our functioning democracy. That is because our policies are not representative of our views. The fellow encouraged everyone to call their representatives.

Discussion Adjourned at 7:30 PM. The Meeting closed with the Song. Notes were compiled by the Chronicler.