

Order of The Golden Bear

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ESTABLISHED 1900

Usually Place, September 17th, 2024

The meeting was convened at 6:00 pm.

Items for the good of the order:

- The Steward invites all Fellows to the Pre-Discussion Dinners from 5-6 pm. Fellows must register in advance and stay for the duration of the meeting.
- A Fellow encourages all other Fellows to add to the discussion and contribute their perspectives. Another Fellow asks to speak with clarity to the room.
- The Warden invites the Berkeley community to the Arleigh William's Forum on Friday, October 18th, from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Maude Fife Room on Floor 3 in Wheeler Hall.
- Oski's B-Day Bear-a-Thon is here! There is a fundraising effort to celebrate Oski's birthday.
- All Fellows are invited to attend Fenton's Creamery after our next Discussion on October 1st.
- A Fellow shows appreciation to all students at Saturday's football game but is displeased with the low Alumni attendance shown on television and in the stadium. Another Fellow encourages the student section not to throw stunt cards on the football field.
- The Warden introduces the next topic, Cal Athletics in the ACC: Impacts and Implications, on October 1st from 6-7:30 pm.

Items for the good of the university: Promoting Civil Discourse on Campus

- *How to have a conversation with campus leaders regarding free speech, protest, and resources?*
- *How can we balance free speech and communication?*
- *How do we tackle conversations that make people uncomfortable?*
- *How do we get student voices into administration?*
- *How to harness Free Speech on campus with safety and respect*
- *Effectiveness of campus town halls*
- *Regents new policy on Time, Place, and Manner*
- *How do we prepare ourselves for an election year on campus?*
- *Protest to policy*

The Warden opens the door for discussion.

- A Fellow shares their initial thoughts on communicating with campus officials and suggests to the ASUC student-elected members in roles with administrators how we can make sure administrators listen to us.
 - In response, another Fellow states there are limited positions with direct access to administration, whereas a handful of people have that power in the ASUC.
 - Another Fellow states they held an elected position with direct access to administrators and have held long conversations regarding free speech. They believe that the student

body has many opinions, and there is trouble accessing those opinions from different ASUC Senators and student representatives.

- A Fellow shared their student experience working alongside administrators and learned that Sproul Plaza is full of administrators. They believe administrators can be accessed and are open to students on campus and on Sproul Plaza.
 - A Fellow shares an experience of seeing the Chancellor in Golden Bear Cafe during his lunch break when no students were speaking to him.
- A Fellow states that students have tremendous power. Students' voices can make changes and move forward with advocacy, which is unique to the Berkeley campus. It doesn't have to be within the ASUC but encourages letter writing and email writing to encourage discussion with administrators.
- A Fellow states that the Order discussions serve as a critical voice in the brains of campus administration. They reaffirm that the Order is a forum for students to present their views and perspectives to over 3,000 Fellows through discussion and meeting notes.
- A Fellow says administrators have the best interest of students, but students instead make their voices heard by occupying Sproul Hall.
 - They encourage more stability and democratic engagement in a civil manner, similar to that of the corporate world, to engage and listen to the other side's perspectives. They encourage respect and do not demonize people who have differing opinions. This Fellow also states that mutual ability to converse will lead to a solution. An obstacle, in particular, is that campus leadership members fear presenting their own opinions. The Order is one of the only places on campus where safe discussions can be had.
- A Fellow shares the story of Mario Savio, who took off his shoes not to scuff the police car but to show safety and respect for the other side. They encourage students to find a passion and make a statement that will pay dividends in the future.
- Another Fellow acknowledges this is a different time on campus compared to many other decades. This is shown through difficult conversations that are personal to many people. They recognize it is hard to have civil discourse when personally attacked. Examples of this are in experiences of police brutality and how police on campus affect students differently and range in comfortability due to traumas.
 - This Fellow poses the question- How does Title VI as the Time, Place, and Manner restriction make you feel?
- In response to a Fellow's question, on social media or in the news, Berkeley is shown as the birth of free speech. They feel that the Time, Place, and Manner is a slap on the back of the hand when administrators know they are in the wrong and cannot admit it.
- Another Fellow touches upon the hypocrisy of administration with the example of the true history of the Free Speech Movement, where administrators did not support the student-led movement. They state that students are almost always on the right side of history. UC Berkeley students are at the forefront and set the trends for other universities and UC campuses. When students show they are under attack, they hope administrators can work alongside them. They suggest students cannot be asked to be more civilized since students are known for being loud and policing their voices is challenging.
- Another Fellow shares a personal experience on the first day of classes where the Time, Place, and Manner worked. It occurred during a class with the topic of Anti-Semitism, and someone

inappropriately filmed students and made students feel unsafe. Hate speech is not allowed in a classroom.

- A Fellow shares that the University of California Office of The President's announcement on Time, Place, and Manner felt rushed. They hoped that the announcement with the Regents would be more thought out and account for the students' experiences.
- Another Fellow proposed a difference between free speech and civil disobedience. Protestors throughout history were willing to accept responsibility for the conflict and arrests. This means that passion doesn't equate to the right to talk to students and faculty in whatever form they'd like. This means that people participate rather than in a confrontational manner. Through personal experience, they believe that civil disobedience undermines the history of the Free Speech Movement.
- A Fellow shows that the algorithm optimizes anger and that many students are personally hurt. They are unsure of a solution but encourage hyper-awareness of the student dialogues. They are not sure if the campus is interested in civil discourse but rather that students like to "stick it in their eye" to make the campus administration feel the attack, just as the students have experienced.
- About the Fellow, another Fellow shows that an overwhelming amount of students would rather have civil discourse. They believe that the idea of civil disobedience shows results in history. They share that masks not being allowed during protests has historical context from the KKK.
- A Fellow asks to clarify what Time, Place, and Manner mean. They reference the film "The Social Dilemma," where the main message was the dangerous impact of social media and today's consequences to commerce, capitalism, and everyday life.
- Another Fellow offers distinctions between those outside the campus community that are using the campus and its students to shame people or get LGBT+ faculty fired. They believe these outside protests negatively affect our communities. This is distinct to the student experience. They share that during a trip to the Middle East, they became aware that negotiations and discussions must go on privately because the viability of those discussions would be violated if they were made public. Political actors have publicly said one thing for decades while slow-moving conversations are kept secret. They believe administrators fear their identity are being targeted and that their impulse remains in changing policy and lives. They believe that we have to talk to one another on both political sides, whether private or public.
- Fellow clarifies that Time, Place, and Manner, and free speech don't mean you can say whatever you want. You cannot personally threaten someone or yell "Fire!" in a building. We define what it is and isn't. Title VI is meant to protect the school's academic mission so that students can learn and researchers can research what they want if they have tenure. They state that Sproul Plaza has had limited times on when to protest. They believe that the media takes the conversation outside of our community. Action can be made through civil statements shared at the beginning of meetings across campus to present expectations on behaviors, specifically inappropriate behavior. Not everything on campus is public. They state that Berkeley is a hybrid of public and private due to limited access to the MLK Student Union, classrooms, and the limited ability to audit a class.
- A Fellow appreciates the desire for safety and decorum. The conversation is based not on what people want but on investing in and driving actions for Gaza. Berkeley takes responsibility for influencing other campuses. This Fellow believes in the lives of all scholastic opportunities. They don't want to be complicit in stopping anyone anywhere.

- A Fellow suggests we think about conflict from student to student. Not all conflicts are between students and the administration. They agree that the Office of the President told the campus to complete an action by a certain time, so it came when the University was unprepared.
- A Fellow believes this is a challenging time when tolerance for students is needed. This Fellow states that the community can be seen at Cal Spirit rallies.
- A Fellow shares the value of protest, which consists of shared concepts and values. The Berkeley campus handled the protest effectively, while the New York Times published frustrations occurring on other campuses. They believe all students must accept the joining of peaceful protest. This kindles the spirit of the civil rights movements with stability.
- A Fellow asks when Time, Place, and Manner began. They shared experiences on campus during the 2016 election, where the campus was surprised by the results, and it was a conflicting time. They encourage students to organize civilly and prepare in time before the election this year.
- To answer this question, a Fellow states that the Time, Place, and Manner rule is an arbitrary decision suggesting that students do what they want but not on campus. They suggest that the term is used arbitrarily to shut down anything the administrators don't like.
- This Fellow provides more context from the 1960s when politics was not allowed on campus, and any political speech was held on the edge of campus. The protest during the Free Speech Movement was to undo this and keep the university neutral where no side was in control. Most people do not know about the policy until it is time to plan an event.
- A Fellow asks if there is a way for students to learn how to protest correctly, possibly a DeCal.
- A Fellow responding with news from the Academic Affairs department will be able to help student organizations successfully plan events that may be controversial or considered a major event with needed security.
 - Another Fellow adds that the Swifties at Cal get the most complaints from the Time, Place, and Manner policy regarding amplified sound.
- A Fellow shares that the Free Speech Movement's history entails the raids and riots that called for all the UCPD and law enforcement. The day-by-day activities of the movement are known, but what is not publicly known is that during this time, the Chancellor was fired, Mario Savio's family lobbied for 13 years for recognition, and the Alumni from the 60s funded the Free Speech Movement Cafe.
- Another Fellow states that all Faculty must attend Time, Place, and Manner training.
- A Fellow answered the question on how to approach uncomfortable conversations. They encourage taking an educational approach as a way to start conversations that may be uncomfortable. They encourage Fellows to take what is said in this meeting and open these discussions to our parts of campus.
- A Fellow recalls the 1950s when students occupied Sproul Hall. They believe students should not feel muzzled and staff should not feel endangered. They believe in protecting students and faculty from campus police and facing difficulties with their own administrations. They add that faculty members in the 1990s-2000s were arrested for protesting the continuation of affirmative action and against tuition increases. These faculty defended students and should not get fired for it. The federal government is turning a blind eye to genocide; the imperative is to stop the genocide and bring the attack to the manner for action.
- Another Fellow asks if it gets better than Berkeley.

- A Fellow shares that the Cal State leaders went to students and got fired for supporting them. They add the question, who governs this campus?
- Another Fellow shared about their prior work on UC campuses. They believe that students' voice in campus involvement is best here, even with its faults, whereas in other places, people don't get a fraction of the opportunity to.
- In answering the question, who runs the place? A Fellow answers that it is the Vice Chancellors, the Chancellor, the UC Regents, and the California legislature.
 - This Fellow believes no one does it better, but that doesn't mean we don't check the world's reality. Administration is not the best, but there must be a willingness to learn from campuses worldwide. Two other UCs got it down better than us. We must know how the wave turns and what side we are on.
 - Another Fellow compares our ASUC to the student government from their community college. They experienced discussions at their community college, which were easier there, and held conversations with administrators that led to action, which can't be said at the UC Berkeley campus.
- A Fellow states that other campuses managed by top-down leadership lead to different outcomes. They demonstrate strong student advocacy, which is not pretty or neat. They believe that the conduct of the students and the ASUC has led to students entering local, state, and national politics. This makes it difficult for students to work collaboratively because passion is present in conversations with administrators.

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