

# Order of The Golden Bear

ΔΙΩΚΩ

ESTABLISHED 1900

*The meeting was convened at 6:00pm.*

**Usual Place, October 15th, 2024**

## **Items for the good of the order:**

- The Alumni Secretary clarified for the fellowship that the Order does not have a fund or program that supports members of the general public with their personal, discretionary expenses, as one associate Fellow requests for himself. Any gift received with such a designation would be returned by the University as it could not be used as the donor intended. Members of the general public can always set up crowd sourcing on their own to assist them in any way they wish.
- A Fellow highlights the contributions of our Steward who is seeking a successor as they will be graduating this semester.
- The Fellow shares that Fall Rush is a difficult store to attend due to lack of accessible entrance.
- 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.
- The Warden invites the fellowship to Newest Fellow Social which will have opportunity to get more involved in the Order and learn about the upcoming election process. This event will take place October 29th from 7:30-8:30 pm. Cupcakes will be provided for attendees.
- The Warden adds on that nominations will be due on November 19th following the October 29th Meeting.
- A Fellow shares that it is Homecoming Week and to celebrate spirit this week!

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

- *Path to Care department changes and budget cuts*
- *Mental Health on Campus: Stress and burnout help and counseling services*
- *Night Safety: Blue lights, Night Safety Shuttle*
- *UCPD*
- *What are the campus's emergency preparedness plans in case of heat, earthquakes, and fire?*
- *Allied security at major campus events including football games and for student organizations including at their events and on sproul*
- *Nutritional and Food Security Resources*
- *Safety for marginalized groups like undocumented students, multicultural organizations, etc*
- *Drug and Alcohol Safety*
- *Transportation and pedestrian safety*
- *The crisis response team*
- *Coming out of the pandemic: COVID-19 safety and vaccine health guidelines*
- *Rental Housing Safety Program*
- *Internet Safety/Avoiding Scams*
- *Online resources through the support portal*

- *How are we providing resources to support our transfer, student parents, and re-entry students?*

*The Warden opens the floor for discussion.*

- A Fellow shares that campus security is crucial for all students, including those with disabilities. They mention a police program called Bear Walk, now known as Safewalk through the Night Safety Services, which helps ensure student safety. Additionally, they note that upcoming elections may bring attention to the need for increased security.
- A Fellow discusses emergency preparedness, referencing student life, fault lines, and the Great ShakeOut event. They emphasize the importance of sharing emergency procedures with students to help them prepare for such situations.
  - Another Fellow follows up with the process during an evacuation and encourages awareness on the emergency posters in buildings to share with students to be prepared in these situations.
- The Warden raises a question about how the heat wave has affected campus life.
- A Fellow mentions a lecture held in North Gate Hall where the professor did not provide an online option despite the extreme heat. This building is built of wood and reaches a high temperature. The Fellow urges the university to adapt to climate changes for student well-being.
- Another Fellow notes that they were unaware of campus announcements during the heat wave. They point out that in their work on another campus, during high heat, students were provided with cooling rooms, fans, ice stations, and cooling rags were provided. They mentioned larger spaces, such as dining commons, were used to accommodate more students during extreme weather. They recommend that the University take notice of these strategies in the case of extreme heat to protect the campus community.
- A Fellow highlights the need for temperature monitoring and immediate action once thresholds are exceeded, such as evacuating high-traffic student areas. They stress the importance of funding interventions to manage heat effectively.
- A Fellow shares an example from their organic chemistry class, which was canceled due to the heat. They suggest that there should be a policy ensuring consistency for all students when extreme weather affects classes. It is not fair for some students to have class canceled and others that do not.
- Another Fellow brings up an incident at UC Davis, where the graduation ceremony was held in 130-degree heat, leading to the graduation being canceled and scheduled for another date. In contrast, they recall during the UC Berkeley Commencement this past Spring, there were high temperatures in the California Memorial Stadium. Students jumped fences for better seating, water, and restroom access. The Fellow warns that UC Berkeley could face similar issues as it is more imaginable for temperatures to continue to rise.
- The Warden shares their experience as a Property Manager. The City of Berkeley conducted random safety checks in apartment units to ensure fire alarms and evacuation routes were up to standard. This proactive approach sets a good example for campus safety. It was great to learn about the way the City of Berkeley stays up to the standard and health of its residents.
- A Fellow discusses the importance of UC Berkeley's relationship with the fire department. They suggest conducting safety checks before events to promote safety. They recommend training for dorm and residential life to prepare students for emergencies, including fire drills. These drills

can be more interactive with the students by providing giveaways or prizes for attending trainings.

- Another Fellow recommends placing emergency preparedness signs in high-traffic areas like bathrooms, libraries, and study spaces. They note that some professors include emergency procedures in their syllabus and emphasize the importance of repetition for student awareness. Additionally, they suggest having masks accessible on campus and share that the Berkeley Law handed out popsicles during the heat wave. It is important to note that most students do not have air conditioning in their homes. Since most students don't have air conditioning, they argue that making cooling resources more visible is critical as it is important for students to see these resources and feel safe on campus.
- A Fellow shares that in airplanes and emergency tutorials from the flight attendants, they always say to put your own mask on first and then help others after. The concept is to help yourself to be able to help others. It is great to keep that in mind to help your friends further. They suggest in cases of extreme heat to also think of the professor themselves. Many of the faculty don't know what to do when the temperature reaches triple digits, they stress the importance of involving faculty in climate response decisions. They recommended to speak kindly and give them reason to act. Do not assume they know what to do and may need help getting there.
- A Fellow shares that many campus buildings surrounding Memorial Glade were poorly constructed and had poor air ventilation. They recall classes were commonly held outside on Memorial Glade and ask if students today can attend classes outdoors during extreme heat. They suggest using tent structures, like those used for Homecoming, as a solution for addressing classroom heat.
- In terms of emergency preparedness, a Fellow suggests that students, including those living off-campus, in Greek life, or in residential life, should have access to emergency supplies. Is there somewhere in the University that would allow students to store items for emergencies? Many of these students would not have a place to store emergency kits such as gallons of water and canned goods. The Fellow warns that the university cannot be solely relied upon to serve 40,000 students in an emergency, referencing the 1989 fire that reached the waterfront. They recommend developing a comprehensive evacuation or emergency plan.
  - Another fellow shares their experience during the Claremont Fire and shares inquiries on the Hayward Fault line.
- The Fellow stresses the need for earthquake preparedness, particularly with "The Big One" in mind. They suggest partnering with companies to offer discounted earthquake preparedness kits to students. They also note that students with cars may need more safety tools like window breakers and flashlights instead of typical university-branded items like pens.
- A Fellow shares that they think highly due to their mindset of preparedness. The Big One in terms of earthquake preparedness. Companies make earthquake preparedness kits that look like little chairs and recommends a partnership to give discounts to students. They share sentiment of not having training since high school. 90 food supply with EBT is available students. Students with cars are not equipped to do in damaged and believe campus and departments can hand out more personal safety equipment such as window breaker, flashlights, and seat belt cutter rather than a pen with the name on.
- A Fellow emphasizes the need for basic support, especially for student parents. They highlight issues with parking, living costs, and inequities in the resources available to student parents at

University Village. They argue that more funds and support are needed to give these students equal opportunities.

- Another Fellow asks: Does the University have a safe place?
  - A Fellow responds that every building on campus has designated safety zones posted on doors and rooms. While the university has water and food caches for on-campus residents, more needs to be done to prepare for emergencies. They also mention that 10 years ago, three buildings on campus (the Tang Center, Haas Pavilion, and California Memorial Stadium) were built to withstand major earthquakes. In major earthquakes or fires, these buildings can withstand and be used as a shelter for people. The new buildings are assumed to also have these standards.
  - A Fellow inquires about emergency preparedness protocols shared during Golden Bear Advising, which includes training modules on violence prevention and emergency situations. They emphasize that both students and staff need to be well-prepared, but that the level of preparedness can vary across different buildings on campus.
- A Fellow shares that there is some embarrassment in not reading the emergency posters on campus. They emphasize that it's a disservice not to take two minutes to read these posters, as it could save your life and others'.
  - Another Fellow adds that staff members are responsible for evacuating students from buildings during emergencies. They are instructed to lead students out in the case of a fire, and this procedure seems to be common across many departments on campus.
- A Fellow suggests including emergency preparedness maps with key phone numbers that could be directly saved on your phones.
- Another Fellow discusses an armed incident on campus about three years ago. They discussed how they were alerted on the situation through Warn Me and had a lockdown in their dorm. Other students who were located on campus during this incident were stuck. They recall that their roommate had to stay in Dwinelle Hall for six hours. This highlighted issues with the WarnMe and campus alarm systems. These issues are due to the delay in important updates on the situation. They noted that during the summer, they worked with the Pre-College Programs involving high school students, where they did not receive WarnMe alerts.
- A Fellow states that the online modules for incoming students should highlight emergency preparedness and resources on campus. They further mention their disappointment in learning of the budget cuts to PATH to Care, affecting Sexual Health and Sexual Violence (SVSH) training. Peer Coordinators are no longer able to provide their support in this area. These budget cuts have a significant impact, as SVSH training is crucial, especially for new college students who may be more vulnerable. The Fellow stresses the importance of programs like Bear Walk to protect against harassment.
- A Fellow discusses Golden Bear Orientation (GBO) and residential resources for students. They also mention the passing of a graduate student in a Native American PhD student who was killed in Mexico during research. This tragic event was reported by news outlets but not by the University. What is campus doing to prepare students that are going overseas?
- On a more hopeful note, the Fellow points out that the Tang Center has great resources for students, especially those with SHIP insurance. They mention that WarnMe is helpful, although the opt-out option is unclear. The Campanile emergency alerts are also effective, but they

question whether the University is putting its full effort into emergency preparedness. They acknowledge the University's attempts and give them credit for trying.

- Another Fellow discusses the East Bay's emergency warning system, noting that it is tested one Tuesday a month in the Fashion District as a tsunami warning. In Berkeley it sounds monthly, on the first Wednesday at noon. If you hear it at any other time, it's a serious alert.
  - A Fellow comments that these tests are valuable for educating the community about emergency actions and where to tune in for information.
- A Fellow shares their experience in La Loma at Foothill, noting that there are no guidelines for students when their roommates get sick. They find it surprising that there are no options or support systems in place for this situation.
- Another Fellow also reminds everyone to get their flu and COVID-19 vaccines, as this is one way to protect yourself and the broader community.
- A Fellow brings up the lack of alerts for students when someone tests positive for COVID-19, particularly for immunocompromised individuals. They also highlight the issue of student homelessness, mentioning that some students are living in their cars. From personal experience, saw their friend live in their car and parked with another friend. The Fellow questions what efforts the campus is making to support unhoused students, suggesting ideas like reduced parking passes and temporary access to resources for those in need.
- Another Fellow expresses concern about the ongoing lack of funding, particularly how it impacts first-generation and low-income students. They note that there are only three counselors for 7,000 transfer students. There was a push for professional development in the OASIS program, but it was not approved.
- Finally, a Fellow shares their concerns about the lack of support for undocumented students. Recently the Opportunity for All bill was not signed by Governor Newsom which would have given opportunity to undocumented students to work on campuses. They highlight the student organization IDEAS at UC Berkeley which supports undocumented students.

*Discussion Adjourned at 7:15 PM. The Meeting closed with Song. Notes were compiled by the Chronicler.*