

# Order of The Golden Bear

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ESTABLISHED 1900

## **Virtual Meeting March 16, 2021**

The meeting was convened at 6:00 pm.

### **Items for the Good of the Order:**

The Warden reviewed updated protocols for this semester's meetings due to these unique circumstances.

### **Items for the Good of the University: Community at Cal**

Prior to the meeting, the Warden prepared a set of questions and resources for the Fellowship to inform our conversation of the topic:

*On the topic of Community at Cal:*

- What do students think is lacking in creating community at Cal? Do students feel like there is an active community? Consider both pre-COVID and post-COVID times.
- How do we encourage students to actively seek out new communities (theatre, sports, clubs)?
- Will online communities cease to exist, or will they continue when we are in-person?
- As we enter the academic year next fall, 3 classes of students will never have had an in-person experience. How can the University seize the opportunity of everyone coming back to campus to create a heightened sense of community?
- What events could the campus create/prioritize to create more community? For example, could the University further use housing to create community?

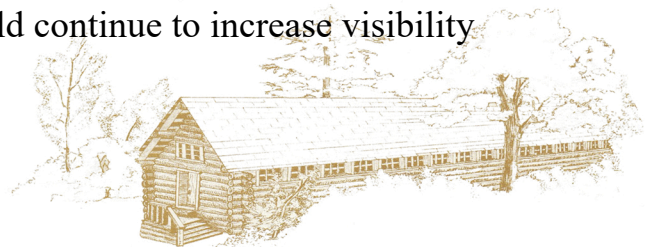
After a brief introduction from the Warden, the floor was open for the Fellowship for discussion:



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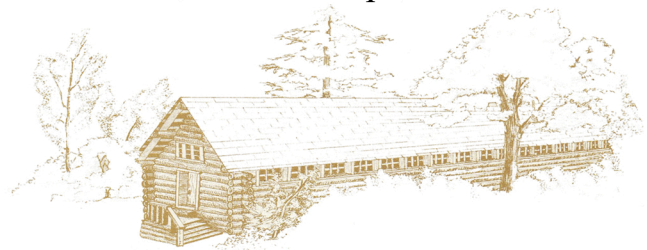
- A Fellow starts off the discussion with what “community” looks like right now with everything being virtual
  - The Fellow mentions breakout rooms during lecture and zoom meetings for clubs
  - It doesn’t truly feel like a real, organic environment
- A Fellow mentions that we do not have a solid definition of what the Berkeley “community” is
  - Does this include only students and faculty? Or all members of the University at large? Or everyone located in the Berkeley area?
  - The Fellow notes that we have not seen each other in person in over a year
  - The Fellow suggests the campus put on events during the Fall to celebrate being back together again, being reunited as a community
  - Would like to see an event where people can gather and celebrate being back together again
- A Fellow brings up the notion to define what we mean when we say “community”
  - Berkeley as a whole is our community, and our clubs/organizations are subsets of that larger community
    - The default is to define these small pockets in clubs/orgs as their “community”
  - The Fellow mentions that breakout rooms are often created at random, and these random pairings are valuable, since they could meet people they wouldn’t have met another way
  - The Fellow notes how during GBO, students become very close with the group that they are assigned to
- A Fellow states that the random connections are useful
  - The Fellow also emphasizes that while it is important to think about the larger community, we should also consider those who are not as comfortable with the larger setting
  - Think about the specific identities who would not feel as comfortable being present in the large setting
  - This Fellow was introduced through a lot of smaller communities through GBO, and the University could continue to increase visibility of all clubs/orgs during this time



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- A Fellow mentions that there are a good number of communities specific to certain identities which are beneficial for helping people transition to college life
- A Fellow mentions that housing is a big part in developing community
  - We do not want to have a commuter school
- A Fellow notes that student groups are essential to daily life on campus
  - The Fellow suggests creating an infrastructure for guidelines from campus on how to become more connected to the campus community as a whole
  - “10 Things that one would do as a member of the Campus Community” - almost similar to a recruiting message for individual clubs, but for the campus as a whole
  - We should have more communal discourse on how we want the Campus Community to be as a whole
- A Fellow mentions that their image of the Berkeley community has been tainted due to COVID
  - The Fellow highlights the areas of community where the memories remain: Campus housing, clubs, the Order
  - The Fellow brings up that one area where there did not seem to be a sense of community was in Academics
  - The Fellow mentions that despite how small the College of Chemistry was, there were not many times where the members of the college would gather together as one
  - There appears to be a lacking of memories of community in the academic sense, might not be the same for all academic pockets
- A Fellow agrees with a previous speaker that there was a lacking of community in the academic sense
  - The Fellow, a Media Studies major in L&S, did not feel a strong connection to the academic community as a whole
  - Compared to the Fellow’s MBA program, with 13 people, which had the complete opposite sense, where there was a strong sense of community and everyone was connected to each other (students, faculty, and admin)
  - In the ResHalls, through the ResHall association, there can be pockets of community



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- A Fellow highlights a point from a previous speaker, where they emphasize the connection between administration and students, it would help the students feel that they are truly apart of the community
  - In these virtual times, it could be important for Admin to be very accessible
  - There could be a power imbalance where students feel intimidated to approach administrators if they do not feel as connected
- A Fellow reflects that the most salient layer of community when they were at Cal were the smaller clubs/groups/organizations, as they helped each other through the Berkeley experience
  - The greater Cal community is more of a sense of Pride
  - Two layers: small groups and greater Cal Community
  - As you leave away from Berkeley, the layers flip as you grow away from the smaller communities, but feel the strong sense of pride for the University
  - It is shocking how fast you lose connection to the people you felt so connected to as you graduate and leave Berkeley
- A Fellow mentions the variables needed to build a sense of community at Berkeley
  - The Fellow reflects on their college time, where they felt that they had to build community on their own, there were not many basic building blocks of community
  - How do you create a sense of belonging and community and a common thread amongst all Berkeley students
  - What traditions/campus-wide events do we have that connects everyone and makes them feel that they have a stake in this community
- A Fellow poses the question if there are seminars that have topics that would bring together a random assortment of folks
  - This Fellow rehashes the concept of the “List of 10” - the Fellow mentions that one of the items should be going to football games/rallies, but the other 9 should have nothing to do with sports
  - The Fellow suggests a “Library Crawl”, traversing from library to library around campus
    - Could give the community a great opportunity to gather together when it is safe



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- A Fellow notes that a good number of current students feel a sense of Community Service
  - How are students actively trying to give back to the community
  - Flash back to the “Top-10 List” - how diverse of an experience can we create
- A Fellow thinks of the “Top-10 List” as a sort of double-edged sword
  - What creates community is diversity of experience
  - The diversity of experience, what you find and hold onto is what makes time at Berkeley so valuable
  - Is there a way to encourage the creation of community or do people have to figure it out on their own
- A Fellow follows up on a previous speaker’s comments
  - There are not just 10 things that people should do before graduating
  - The diversity of experiences is varied for everyone
  - The campus could possible publish a “100 things to do” list and the challenge would be to do 10 of them before
- A Fellow notes that the students who tend to be actively involved in the Berkeley Community are the ones who tend to give back later in life
  - However, there could be students who feel like they would rather be alone at times at Berkeley, and both are equally valid
- A Fellow appreciates the idea of building on ideas during the discussion meeting, working with other Fellows to brainstorm
  - The Fellow is interested in the “100 things to do” but they would want to make a statement
  - There should be a significant number of action items that are statistically measurable
  - It should not just be students involved in these potential events, but administrators and faculty should also play a role!
  - The Fellow emphasizes the importance of public service as a part of this list
- A Fellow mentions the “Partnership across Decades” which is currently going on
  - Linking current Berkeley Students with Alumni from 50 Years ago

The meeting closed with song and was adjourned at 7:06 pm.  
Meeting Minutes taken and compiled by the Chronicler for the Order.

