

Order of The Golden Bear

διδάσκω

ESTABLISHED 1900

Virtual Meeting March 30, 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.

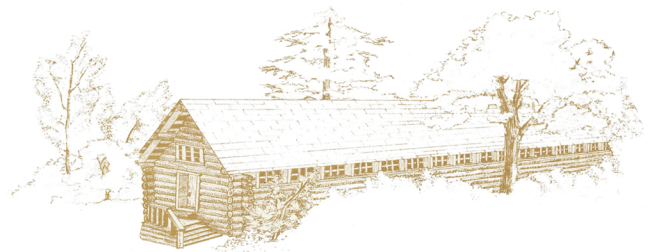
Items for the Good of the University: Returning to Campus: Moving OGB Forward

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 Returning to Campus: Moving OGB Forward:

- How do we carry our conversations and information we learn from our Order meetings to our respective communities?
- Each semester we initiate many Fellows, especially students, who never show up to a meeting once initiated. How do we increase participation and prevent “one and done” Fellows?
- What can Fellows do to better inform new members of the true purpose and commitment of the Order? How do we fully serve the University?
- How do we further diversify the groups that we recruit from? How do we get our genuinely diverse Fellowship to participate?
- How do Fellows discuss their participation in the Order and share what they've learned with non-Fellows?

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

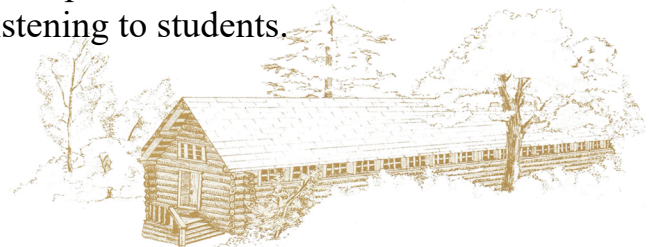


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- A Fellow starts off the discussion with highlighting a key issue with generating student activity is selecting relevant topics for each discussion
 - For example, we could have a discussion on the recent rise in attacks towards AAPI, which could transcend the general campus community
- A Fellow notes that attending Order meetings is a selfless act, there are no rewards for attending, especially during an online semester
 - If Students are able to better understand the impact, they would attend more
 - Remind the order frequently that it is our duty to carry these conversations outside the Order
 - Generate better motivation to attend meetings
 - Noteworthy to have members of campus admin here for a tangible representation of members of the community listening to us
- A Fellow notes that getting important topics in front of the order as well as engaging with people who are not in the order is important.
 - In the last decade, people have been very weary about talking about being in the order, as if it were a very secretive thing rather than a very important thing
 - There is no reason that we shouldn't be going out to campus and talking about the conversations we've had, and engage with those outside of the Order to gather more opinions from outside peers. Bringing in outside opinions is for the good of the order.
 - We *should* be talking about what we do and what we say, just NOT mention WHO said what. Our service to the university requires us to do so. We should change this.
- A Fellow notes that they do not know how the Order was prior to being virtual
 - The Fellow follows that it is a privilege to be able to attend order meetings
 - It is a responsibility of our membership to spread the information that we discuss in these meetings
- A Fellow notes that when he joined OGB during the protests in the 1960s, the most active meetings were the ones where the administration came to meetings hoping to hear student opinions on the protests.
 - You felt that the administration was listening to students.



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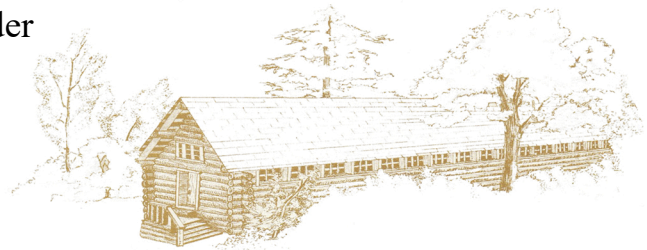
- Inviting a relevant member of administration to meetings could make a great impact. Students are passionate about sharing their opinions on improving the education experience as long as someone is there to listen, aka someone from the administration.
- A Fellow highlights the importance of this topic, as it doesn't pertain to the University or the general Community, but zeroes in on ourselves
 - Tangible Impacts - how do we make our effects known, increase student engagement if they know their contributions are being heard
 - Continue to make it known that people in administration are going to be reading our discussion notes
 - The Fellow recalls an experience when they sat next to a Fellow (member of admin) who was directly in charge of the topic of discussion for that evening
 - The current reputation of the Order has muddied how we handle discussing the order with those outside the Order
 - The rumors and secrets floating around about the Order affect how comfortable we feel about talking with other members of the community
- A Fellow remarks that when the Order was founded, everyone knew who the leadership was.
 - In the 50s, the campus was much smaller, and it was much easier to know who the OGB leadership was. Now the campus is much larger, and it's impossible for the members in the OGB to know enough people to promote the nomination of a diverse group of leaders.
 - This Fellow argues that we should have a nominating committee who go out to people on the campus, and have them nominate extraordinary finds. These people tend to be very busy.
 - The Fellow proclaims that each member only knows a small sector of the student body, and for this reason a nomination committee specifically dedicated to finding new nominees would be beneficial.
 - This Fellow states that people who are very busy are not going to come to meetings with boring topics, it is very important that we have strong topics that people are motivated to participate in.
- A Fellow brings up some core issues that pertain to our general engagement and nomination for the Order:



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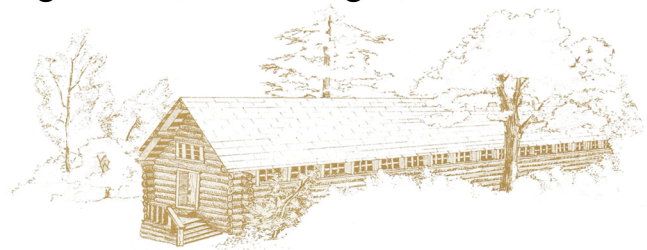
- From a past experience, the Fellow never mentions that a certain discussion occurred in the Order, usually mention just a “general conversation”
- This Fellow personally prefers not to identify discussions with the Order
 - 1. Avoid conversations with non-Fellows asking about how to get it
 - 2. Uncomfortable with sharing the names/identities of those who participated in the conversation
- If there was more guidance on how to handle the conversation of non-Fellows bringing up the nomination process
- Make the distinction between the Order discussions being private and shift towards them being meant for the community as a whole
- A Fellow remarks that the notes are very vague and mysterious.
 - These notes should be more widely distributed to make Fellows feel like there is some takeaway from these discussions. Possibly it could be sent in a follow-up email.
 - Fellow notes that no one knows who takes these notes, and that this should be a less secretive process.
 - Another Fellow responds by reminding that these notes are sent out in bi-weekly emails but more transparency is always the goal.
- A Fellow recounts how the Order has helped prepared them for professional life
 - Being able to have a conversation about various topics with a group of people who differ in opinion
 - Make a lifelong passion to have frank discussions, but not make it personal
 - These will help people stay involved and engaged in our Order
 - Have a discussion with people who differ in opinion
- A Fellow notes that there should be a better source of guidance for what is and is not allowed
 - Should we create a manual to help advise how to have these conversations with those outside of the Order
 - KEY: How to introduce the Order to your nominee, set clear expectations and details about the Order



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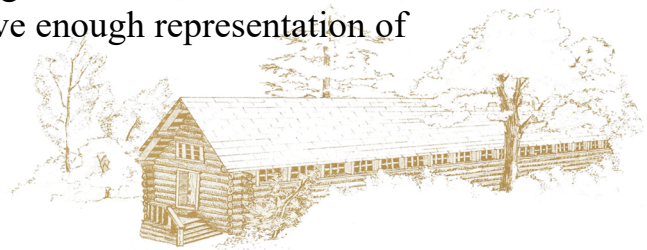
- A past Fellow has stated that it is hard to gauge the impact of the Order without clear guidelines
- Exploit the network of people who are engaged here at the Order, connect with our interests and activities outside of the Order
- A Fellow notes that in trying to make an inclusive organization with a campus of 40k people, this organization could appear intimidating.
 - The Fellow suggests to invite two people at a time, pairs of nominees, so that they feel more comfortable coming in.
 - With inclusiveness, everyone here feels welcome. However, we are concerned about people coming once and never coming back again.
 - Potentially, there could be outreach and follow up conversations.
 - We could reach out to participating Fellows and ask them for feedback on the latest discussion. They would be more likely to attend on a regular basis.
- A Fellow emphasizes some points from previous speakers:
 - The concept of having a “Manual” is very promising
 - Focus on the conversation, not on the body who engaged in the conversation
 - Shift focus on the topic at hand, not on the Order itself
 - Emphasize the commitment and responsibility of the Order, not the “secret society” aspects of it
 - Increase transparency of the Order and its Discussions
 - Meeting notes go out after every discussion
 - Meeting minutes get published to a public website for the world to see
 - The only thing that is not allowed when discussing the Order → Do not mention someone’s name in connection to a comment
 - Connecting to a nominee or new Fellow as a follow-up has always been the responsibility of the Nominator (not the Order Council)
 - The best person to guide a new Fellow is the one who nominated them in the first place
 - Focus on the impact that we can have based on the conversation pertaining to the various topics
- A Fellow highlights how coming to meetings is a selfless act.
 - This Fellow remarks that this is not going to work considering the types of students at Berkeley



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- The Fellow reminds us of the personal rewards of the conversations, like public speaking skills. This highlights the reward of the OGB to the student, instead of the profit the university gets from our participation.
- A Fellow revisits a previous point, how a Fellow had a nominator clearly explain the expectations and details of the Order
 - Do not make it a one-on-one conversation, but rather have a few people having that conversation
 - Makes it more about the Order inviting them in vs. the friend inviting them in
 - Good number (est. $\frac{1}{3}$) of Fellows are “one and done”
 - How can we do a better job of checking with Fellows who have not shown up after nomination
- A Fellow notices that we have 20 participants tonight, only 6-7 are student members.
 - Our student membership is a critical issue that the OGB should worry about.
 - The Fellow realizes that the more important issue is getting a diverse student membership that is a good representation of the campus. Currently, we are not doing this.
 - We have to constantly focus on having a solid student membership. Frankly, the Fellow remarks, we have too many associates. We need to focus on getting more students
- A Fellow highlights that it is difficult for many alumni to attend meetings after graduating, either due to location or timing
 - As a Student, sometimes the trek to the usual place was too much, it would be convenient to check in from a library or dorm to see what the Order is discussing
 - Having a Zoom option for students and associates would allow more people to attend, which could lead to a greater diversity of opinions at each meeting
 - Alumni often have remote alumni events with current students, and that could be a pool to select new nominees from
- A Fellow touches on the idea of a nominating committee.
 - The Fellow suggests that we don’t have enough representation of certain groups.



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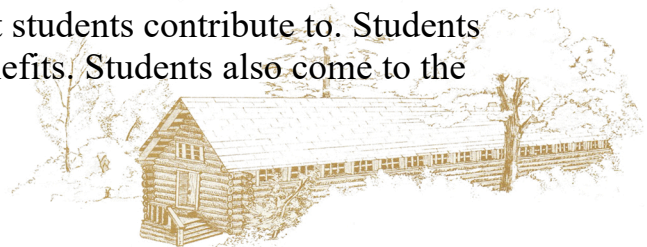
- Cal students work hard, and CAP students are very socially conscious. They look for what they can do for the world and the university, and this is the type of group that should be approached.
- If we are looking to bring in speakers that will respect the charges, we should look for people in certain groups that would fit that mold of tolerance, frankness and confidentiality.
- A Fellow supports the idea of a “nominating committee”
 - However, the responsibility of gathering student leaders from campus should not fall solely on this committee, ALL Fellows should still be responsible for bringing in new Fellows
 - One issue with Zoom → Vast majority of attendees have been Associates, not students
 - Very harmful for a Student organization, there is an uphill struggle to renew student engagement post Zoom-Meetings
- A Fellow says that they just had a conversation about bringing students back to campus
 - A previous speaker mentioned that we have a student population that is not fully aware of the whole of Cal community ideals.
 - The Fellow argues that students are not attending meetings not because they are bored, but rather because of financial reasons. For the same reason, students often stop going to social events like sports games.
 - The Fellow mentions the concept of Zoom fatigue. This is also a current issue with engagement.
 - We used to do a lot of work to target younger people for nominations-freshmen. The Fellow remembers seeing these new students and their remarks felt more diverse. The Fellow urges us to diversify our age targets.
- A Fellow reiterates what a previous speaker has mentioned about bringing Freshmen into the Order - could bring more diversity of views and opinions
 - Highlight again that we could increase student engagement if we had a tangible source of action items for the University
 - Facilitate conversations between Admins and the Order, let them know our opinions and let us hear theirs, 2-way street of discussion
 - Show students that their words and ideas matter and are being heard



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- This Fellow, a student, supports a “zoom-hybrid” model to increase engagement across distances from both students and associates alike
- A Fellow mentions that when students go abroad, they lose touch, and when they come back they will be stressed seniors and less incentivized to come to meetings.
 - For this reason, the Fellow agrees that we should tailor our nominations to freshmen and sophomores as well as upperclassmen.
- A Fellow realizes that, specifically with the Order Council, we cultivate a place where Fellows can ask questions.
 - A Fellow suggests we could make a public platform where outside peers could suggest questions, discussion topics, etc. This would bring in a lot of outside ideas.
- A Fellow builds upon the comments of a previous speaker in regard to the Nomination Committee
 - There are multiple awards and scholarships for Freshmen based on leadership and potential engagement
 - In addition, there are a great number of freshmen who are interested in interning for ASUC offices, strong sign of campus engagement from early on
- A Fellow remarks that some students might have disinterest in coming to the OGB discussions when they might have more valuable things to do.
 - Another point is that people aren’t coming because life is expensive and stressful, and decreases participation in all sorts of activities
 - The Fellow points out that many of the participants are the role models.
 - The Fellow remarks that this is a personal benefit in coming to the meetings for themselves.
 - We don’t take votes or make plans or have concrete actions. However, maybe a go-getter type of person might think the OGB is a not very productive place.
 - The Fellow encourages all participants to talk about what they’re up to in the items for the good of the order- they could talk about their experience in Cal transit, for instance. It could also inspire future discussion topics.
 - Fellows think of this space as one that students contribute to. Students come to university to reap a lot of benefits. Students also come to the



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university to influence the university in a positive way as well. How can we convey this to incoming freshmen? Not only will you benefit from the university, but you can and should try to benefit the university. Maybe we need to do more as a campus to convey this message.

- A Fellow responds to a previous Fellow's suggestion of networking within the Order
 - There is potential for a networking opportunities within the Order
 - Attempts to engage with Associate Fellows, set up a system where they could mentor Student Fellows
 - Avoid becoming an elitist club or organization, reflect the diversity of opportunity at Berkeley
- A Fellow follows up a previous speaker by saying that a student organized a female press conference on the Cleary report
 - The Fellow remarks that we don't see enough of this personal ownership and action in the current age
 - This student took something valuable from these meetings and went with it and completed actions because of it.
- A Fellow emphasizes a point from earlier in this discussion - that they would show up to meetings in person, but would encourage a "zoom-panel"
 - Opportunity to have both the face-to-face meetings and Fellows joining in from a remote location
- A Fellow asks how can we move this concept of a nomination committee forward?
 - The Warden responds by encouraging those who would be interested to reach out to them to consider options moving forward.

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

