

**March 1, 2022**

The meeting was convened at 6:01 pm.

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

- The Warden opens up by stating that the chronicler is not able to be present tonight and another fellow will be stepping in to take notes on tonight's discussion.
- The Warden then goes over some general protocols when speaking in discussion:
  - One must always address the warden when speaking
  - Agreement with another fellow's comments must not be shown by clapping or hollering, but simply by snapping
  - One must never address other fellows by name, but instead refer to them as "the previous fellow" when speaking
- The Warden reminds the fellowship that Order Council meetings will take place at 5pm this semester on the off Tuesdays in the usual place.
- Lastly, the Warden reminds the fellowship that there are no wrong comments and encourages all fellows in the room to participate in tonight's discussion.
- A fellow remarks "Cal Band Great!"

**Items for the Good of the University: The Enrollment Freeze**

The Warden opens the floor with anecdotes and reviews some questions sent out to the Fellowship prior to the meeting.

- There was recently a court ruled decision to cap UC Berkeley's enrollment at the 2020-21 level of 42,347. Although a decision has not yet been made as it is currently being sent to the Supreme Court, it is important to recognize that if not at the 2020-21 level it is inevitable that we will be met with more lawsuits for an enrollment cap.
- A large part of the current lawsuits that UC Berkeley is being met with deal with the environmental impact that UC Berkeley has as an institution. How much more are we able to expand, especially when the university only houses 22 percent of its current students?

- Another thing we must look at is how recent enrollment increases have impacted the student experience. The Warden recalls that through her years at Cal she has had classes of 2000+ students that have had to meet in Haas Pavilion due to the fact we don't have any lecture classrooms that will facilitate that large of a classroom size.
- The Warden asks whether admissions policy may change because of this new enrollment cap. Will Cal be even harder to get into than it has been in the past?
- The Warden also asks how the university interacts with policy makers? What can we learn from this current situation?

*On the topic of Discussion of The University's Enrollment Freeze:*

- A Fellow opens the discussion by stating all the information they know as someone who has known about this lawsuit since August.
  - UC Berkeley has asked the state Supreme Court to halt the current court order to freeze enrollment. They are acknowledging the ruling, but hoping that we will be able to go forward with our typical new admissions numbers and come back to this lawsuit looking at the current enrollment for a year that most likely will not be skewed due to the pandemic and other associated factors
  - March 9th is the date when decisions will be made for UC Berkeley applicants that applied this last cycle. If we do not hear back from the Supreme Court by then we will have to go forward sending acceptances to less students to accommodate for the new enrollment cap.
  - Berkeley has been faced with many lawsuits from different parties that have tried to cap our enrollment, but the City of Berkeley has seemed to stop their efforts for the time being. UC Berkeley's LRDP (Long Range Development Plan) along with many of the other UC's LRDP is also being challenged in courts as a separate issue.
  - If the state Supreme Court does not halt the order in time we will have to admit 3000 less students this admissions cycle.
- Another fellow who has more information on the enrollment freeze adds on with information that they have as to what administration is doing to prepare

- Campus is looking to adjust what the definition of campus enrollment is. For example, since UCDC students are not currently on our campus, those students would not count.
  - This fellow clarifies that anyone who has already been accepted for the next school year, including some graduate students and Regents Scholars will not have their admissions affected by this enrollment freeze.
  - 500 grad students would have to be cut from this year's admissions cycle.
  - Many acceptances that go out will include 1 of 2 following conditions:
    - 1st semester of their freshmen year would be online
    - Option to defer their acceptance to the spring
  - Campus is also looking to rush students towards graduation if they only have a couple of classes left
  - They also reiterate that this is a larger issue than UC Berkeley, and would affect campuses across the state of California
  - There have been a couple of state bills made to try to help out the situation, but they will not go out until next year.
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- Another fellow asks whether FPF students are considered on campus students? They also recall that this is sadly a typical pattern behavior for our City of Berkeley neighbors as they do not like change and the campus has grown so much over the last 20 years. This fellow recalls UC Berkeley being too large when they were a student here and we had roughly 25,000 students on our campus. They also make a note that CEQA is used by many suburban areas because of communities and property rates changing.
  - A fellow responds to the previous speaker and confirms that FPF students would not be counted as "on-campus" in terms of the total number of enrolled students. They also add that UC Berkeley has been looking towards our San Francisco and Davis campuses as potential opportunities to reallocate students throughout the UC system.
  - Another fellow adds that UC Berkeley is also planning on keeping a larger waitlist than it has in the past for this coming admissions cycle. Timing is key in all of this because of the May 1st decision deadline. This fellow also brings up that there would be 57 million dollars that campus would lose from bringing in 3000 less students just from tuition alone.
  - Another fellow asks 3 questions to the room. First, what does CEQA stand for? Second, are we partnering with any UCs that could take some of the

burden off us? Lastly, a previous fellow mentioned that this court ruling decision would impact higher education as a whole and wants additional clarification on that.

- Another fellow clarifies that if this court ruling goes through it would open the door for other UCs and CSUs which are also “over-capacity” to have similar lawsuits made against them. It would give CEQA more reason to go against these large institutions.
- Another fellow that works with other UC campuses lets the fellowship know that other UC campuses are planning to hold back on their admissions offers because of the lawsuit and modifying their deadlines to release acceptances.
- Another fellow asks whether students that are part of the new changemaker program on campus will be counted in enrollment numbers since they do have classes on a separate campus.
- Another fellow clarifies that CEQA stands for California Environmental Quality Act. CEQA is a force that not only aims to take stands against college towns but all cities across the state. They focus on traffic congestion and other specific criteria.
- Another fellow brings up the fact that there has been discussion about the fact that this new enrollment cap will cost the university 57 million dollars. The fellow asks whether this will in turn affect who is admitted?
- A fellow responds to a previous fellow’s comment and states that the campus is working with all of our deans to make a projection model of what the student makeup will look like as a result of this. The new enrollment cap will not affect California residents, but the university may have to cut down on out-of-state and international students. They add on that this was going to be a change regardless due to pressure from the state to accept more students from California.
- Another fellow provides an anecdote about protests during their time at Berkeley. They talk about the fact that many times Berkeley would rather study a subject than be the subject being studied, but in this case we are both. This issue is not just tied to the university, but rather should be a

community wide discussion. Cal has a very important role in the vitality of the state of California.

- Another fellow wanted to give credit to admissions in their attempt to admit as many students as possible, even if it does come at the cost of having their first semester online or having students defer to the spring semester.
- Another fellow refers back to a previous speaker who mentioned that during their time here at Berkeley we were at just over 25,000 in terms of enrolled students. During this time, the UC system had a practice of opening new campuses such as our more recent Santa Cruz and Merced campuses. However, this fellow no longer sees that effort to expand. They believe that part of the UC mission is to provide low-cost but high-quality education. That along with a growing California population has forced us to keep growing on the 9 campuses we do have. They emphasize that the state puts this pressure on the UCs to open its doors to more students but does not provide enough funding to support those additional students. They also want to note that with this lawsuit Cal has been in the media a lot and most of it is portraying the university very poorly. They ask whether we are doing anything to counter this negative messaging around the university that makes it seem like we did this to ourselves?
- Another fellow mentions that they came in as an FPF student and also came off of the waitlist and still they are able to stand in this room today, and has hope for students which may need to enter Berkeley through non-traditional means because of this situation. They continue by asking the fellowship whether there is any good to come of having a smaller class and potentially a more competitive admission rate?
- Another fellow starts off by recounting how admissions used to be vastly different when they came to Cal. Prospective students used to apply to the university as a whole and not a specific college. They ask whether the university has ever considered going back to that system as it may encourage students to apply to other UCs and get an overall UC education? This fellow feels that there we try to compare ourselves to private institutions but are fundamentally different from them.
- Another fellow looks back on a previous discussion topic on housing and how that brought up the fact that there are many vacant apartments in the city of Berkeley that could be used as affordable housing for students in the

likelihood that campus expands even more in the future. That does bring up the question of how other things such as water, energy, waste and byproduct, security, and support services will be supported. Campus continues to have hiring difficulties post-pandemic and 1 in 5 admin/staff leave every year.

- Another fellow is curious to see to what extent the 57 million dollar loss that this enrollment cap would have could be balanced out with services that may need less staffing. Can the university leverage this? They also ask what assessment method is being used to determine the environmental impact that these additional 3000 students on campus would have?
- Another fellow clarifies that the 57 million dollar revenue loss could be much higher. They also want to express that Berkeley is not the only university that is “over-capacity”, in fact most other UC Campuses are as well. UCLA is at 114% capacity, UCSB is at 118% capacity. It would be great to be able to expand some of our other campuses, but there’s even more lawsuits holding that up as well. This fellow believes that there is not a good outcome for this year in particular. The way that the judge went about the ruling has made it so it has become much more of a headline than if the judge would have ordered the enrollment cap for next year’s cycle. There are 2 sides to this: The university did not keep its word in admitting only a certain number of students and they should determine a way to give us more accurate numbers of total students enrolled, however this ruling for an enrollment cap is coming at the same time as pressure from the state to increase enrollment. Following up on a previous speaker they mention that there have been ideas to create a “mini-UC” in Redding in order to expand the UC system. They end off by saying that the University has done a lot over these past couple years to perfect the admissions process, and at this point they are just putting perfect students against perfect students. This is why many universities still use SAT scores as a metric to get rid of prospective students, because it really is that close.
- Another fellow expressed that they believe there will be some good that comes out of this situation. The campus is currently over capacity, overrun, there are not enough services, and we receive more and more pressure from the state to keep expanding even as this is happening. Parents in this state want their students to go to UCLA or Berkeley and we can’t satisfy that demand. State legislators are upset at Berkeley because they have pressure from voters to get their children into a great public university. However,

cutting our numbers does have serious short term harm, as the campus CFO has estimated about 100 million loss from this, 57 coming just from tuition loss. It took 4 years of budget cuts for Berkeley to fix a 125 million budget cut previously so this will hurt for several years to come. Additionally, the cost of having  $\frac{1}{3}$  of our incoming class next year lose out on a Berkeley experience.

- Another fellow asks how the university is drawing the line between CEQA and our current crowding issue on campus, and the mission of the university, which is to serve the students and the state of California.
- Another fellow states that there is no obvious solution to this problem. So much of the Cal experience extends beyond the classroom and it is a shame that will be altered. Do we need to reimagine what enrollment looks like? One thought is to expand study abroad programs. Students might be more inclined to accept an offer from Berkeley even if they can't be on Berkeley's campus their first year if they have the chance to be in-person at another institution. Georgetown has  $\frac{1}{2}$  of its junior students study abroad and it's part of the culture at that university. Regardless of its role in helping enrollment, making study abroad more accessible is something many students would benefit from.
- Going off a previous fellow, another fellow talks about how Northeastern has a similar issue to Berkeley in which they do not have enough housing for their students, so they send students to study abroad their first semester freshman year and then continue the rest of their studies on-campus. It's a cultural norm because it is so highly encouraged and students don't feel like they're missing out on their 4 years on campus.
- Another fellow adds that many of the universities that previous fellows have talked about are elite private schools that have such a large endowment that frankly they don't even need to ask for tuition and can afford to send all these students to study abroad. We have many underrepresented communities on our campus that cannot study abroad due to the financial barrier. This then brings up the questions of how financial aid will be impacted due to enrollment freeze.
- Another fellow adds that their daughter studied abroad during her time at UCLA and it was very expensive, however their son studied abroad at his time in Cal Poly SLO with a college that had an agreement with them and

the cost was the same as staying at Cal Poly SLO. Could we establish those relationships with other universities to give the chance to even study abroad in another state? They also go back to the point that out-of-state and international students may have to be cut and bring up student athletes, many of whom are out-of-state or international. Who are these student athletes potentially bumping out because student athletes need to be on campus and cannot be remote or defer for a semester. How do we manage this?

- Another fellow asks where we draw the line for accepting the best students vs. where they may come from? This fellow contributes many of the positive experiences and important lessons they learned during their time at Berkeley to out of state and international students. They also talk about how important having at least a bachelors has become in recent years and why they feel giving a Berkeley to the most students possible is so important. Going back to a previous discussion topic, we have a huge global impact, and part of that comes from providing a stellar education to so many students.
- Another fellow encourages everyone to go out and spread the different knowledge/perspectives that they have learned from tonight. Many students are not aware of what campus is doing to help remedy this. Referring back to a previous speaker they also want to dive deeper into this dream of higher education. Possibly one long term solution is encouraging students to go to community college and not downplay the value of being at a UC for 2 years. The current mindset of K-12 is to go to a UC but there are so many other options in the system.
- Another fellow wants to comment on the 2 previous speakers. They do not believe that K-12 really has a mindset of their own, but rather we are instilling into them that they must go to a UC to be successful. The first line of the Palace states that this king was a mason, a tradesmen, and this mason built a palace such that a king should build. You don't need to come to a UC to build a palace. One can be incredibly successful without coming to a UC.
- Another fellow asks why we are constantly being asked by the state to enroll more students? It may be due to the fact that 1.1 million bachelor's degrees come out of this state annually. What about our student experience? What kind of decisions will prospective students face when they see that



acceptance letter that details they may have to do their first semester online or defer? What will this do to the diversity of the freshman class this upcoming year? 500 graduate students is about twice the Goldman school of public policy which will be cut. Many of these being potential GSIs for undergraduate courses. They also talk about the fact that during their time here at Berkeley they have asked the famous ice breaker question “what’s your major” a million times and more frequently than not, people have a huge list of majors/minors they’re pursuing. How many seats are these students taking in those classes? How many classes are they taking compared to their peers with only 1 major? SDSU has been known to push students to graduate. Are we doing the same? Lately, they comment on the fact that necessity breeds innovation and within a few years they believe the solutions we will come up with will be much greater than what we are facing now. This is what gives them hope.

- Another fellow asks that if due to the court ruling and all this attention towards UC Berkeley there is any chance that more students will accept their offer than we are expecting? Will we have to cut more people due to potential over enrollment? They also want to look back on the mission of the university, and detail that it is really much more than serving the state of California and really is about serving education and society as a whole. Really the central mission is improving society. They talk briefly about the fact that many of our big donations come from international/out-of-state alumni and by decreasing the amount of these students we are potentially hurting ourselves in the long run. As an out of state student themselves, they really value the opportunity they had to come to UC Berkeley and say how aside from the education UC Berkeley provided them, California as a whole provided safety as well. As a female they would not want to be a college student in Texas nor studying in a southern university during COVID.
- Another fellow acknowledges how much non-resident students bring to UC Berkeley and states that even before the enrollment freeze, the state had asked the university to move from its 24.4% non-resident rate to 18%. They add that the UC System has a 2 to 1 program for transfers in which 1 transfer is accepted for every 2 first year students. In the next 3 weeks the administration is preparing for the big release. When they push that button to send out all of the admissions. All the readers have been doing this for many years and they are extremely dedicated to working through all of this.

The meeting closed with song and was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

