

April 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Topic: A Year In Review: How Can The Past Shape The Future?

Meeting Called to Order: 6:02 PM

Items for the Good of the Order:

- The Warden reminds the Fellowship about the upcoming deadlines for nominations for Order Council and Future Fellows

Items for the Good of the University: A Year In Review: How Can The Past Shape The Future?

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

On the Topic of: A Year In Review: How Can The Past Shape The Future?

- A Fellow opens the conversation with a review of previous discussions about remote learning and how to expand the campus
 - There was an issue of the drive of the students who want to return to Campus because they don't want to miss out on the Campus Experience
 - This past year, we got to see exactly what we were missing since everyone was online due to COVID
- A Fellow recalls that reflection is a value that many students have taken up since the pandemic started
 - This Fellow, a transfer student, felt that there was almost a resentment towards Campus from other students
 - This Fellow asserts that resiliency is a key value that needed to be taken up by all students due to the struggles of remote learning
 - This Fellow postulates that it is ok to be constantly changing, and disruption of a regular routine is good - better to stop and reflect than to keep pushing in stressful situations
- A Fellow reflects on the past year, specifically on the resources that were available to students during the pandemic
 - Mental Health - a key revelation from the COVID year where many students struggled with isolation
 - Technology from Campus - with everyone online, students needed WiFi, Computers, Zoom Licenses

- Is it possible that Campus has cut some resources that were underutilized during the Remote Year, under the assumption that Students would not remember what resources had been available to them previously
- A Fellow builds upon a previous speaker's comments:
 - Remote Advising appointments - currently offered in the hybrid model, which is good for both students who want to come in to meet face-to-face and for students who are unable to meet on campus
 - Are there practices/new resources from the remote year that we should continue on with in the future?
- A Fellow reflects on their previous conversations with other students:
 - Many Professors are unaware that many underclassmen students do not have a complete high school education, since about half of their time in high school was spent online
 - Were many high school students tempted to cheat due to the threat of a curve (if everyone else is doing it, am I going to fall behind if I don't cheat?)
- A Fellow recalls back to the OGB meetings during the Pandemic:
 - All of the OGB meetings last year were held via Zoom, and this allowed many Fellows who are not located in the Bay Area to participate and get a sense of what the current meetings are like
- A Fellow touches on their experience starting at Berkeley as a transfer student during the pandemic and now coming out of it
 - Throughout the pandemic, the lines between personal time and class time were blurred
 - This Fellow took on a lot of work, and quickly realized that despite how tired you might be, people still expect the full effort out of you
 - Perhaps the University could emphasize that we are humans, not robots, and we should not be filling our days only with meetings - we should take in and enjoy the little moments of being a college student
- A Fellow questions the current definition of cheating:
 - Does the current understanding of cheating differ from the past?
 - With everything being online (and so much in the future moving toward a reliance on electronic devices), is it cheating if these are the resources in front of you?
 - Reliance on electronics - can't take it away just as you could if it were a book during a test, the whole test is online now
- A Fellow recalls that they were able to be in various places at once via Zoom, but that is not the case now
 - The physical and mental fatigue of being a student on campus is a completely different feeling, and it prevents people from taking on as much as they did during the pandemic

- Hybrid Model: Even if COVID is not an issue in the future, would recorded lectures/resources be helpful to students who might not be able to make it into lecture the entire semester
- Semester in the Cloud - Many introductory classes are now taught online (blend of in person and online classes)
 - Allows students to fit them into their schedules while also exploring other areas of study
- A Fellow adds into the conversation about the benefits of having recorded lectures/resources:
 - If people have family emergencies or need to be out of Berkeley for an extended period of time during the semester
 - These resources also benefit students with disabilities - the campus is not easily accessible for everyone (many hills, long walks across campus from lecture to lecture)
- A Fellow touches on their experience with building communities around campus during the remote year
 - In very large majors, it can be very difficult to find and build communities with your peers online
 - Are we struggling to find a balance between in-person and remote options?
 - Does there need to be a defined balance? Or should there just be an equitable option for everyone?
- A Fellow questions the Administration's and various Departments' perspectives on how they are offering courses in the future?
 - Are students going to prefer one type of course offering or the other (in-person or remote?)
 - Having multiple options for an offering of the course can stretch people thin in trying to create options for all students?
 - What do the students prefer?
- A Fellow thinks back to the changes that have occurred since March 2020:
 - Some classes are still recording lectures and making the material more accessible for all students
 - Many students easily transitioned to online, while many Faculty members were unable to transition as easily
 - We are on the way out - What is changing in a bad way as we make the return to in-person
 - Are there ways for students to support local businesses who are struggling during these times?
 - There is a gap in Institutional Knowledge in every corner of the University because of the pandemic

- Many clubs/organizations are going under also due to loss of institutional knowledge, and is there any way we can help preserve the knowledge of the past moving forward to keep these groups afloat?
- A Fellow reflects on the theme of tonight's discussion and where we stand at the end of nearly two years of the pandemic
 - This Fellow is not necessarily a fan of hybrid models, but after the past two years, it has been shown that these models work
 - Are online classes an option moving forward for students who are unable to get into specific classes because it might not align with their major
 - Is there a way to Cross-Enroll to another UC Location (hybrid option) while still maintaining our home campus as the primary campus
- A Fellow provides some insight about the Cross-Enrollment program
 - It already exists for some locations, but it definitely can be expanded upon moving forward
- A Fellow thinks back to the discussion about the Enrollment Cap
 - Many students have to stay longer than four years on campus because they are unable to get into the classes that they need for their major
 - Possibly have students be able to take these classes at another location
- A Fellow adds in some more context about this topic
 - This Fellow questions if it is common to have multiple listings of the same course in the same semester with different instructors?
 - This Fellow asserts that all UC locations should not just be working to "cross-list" courses, but should they also focus on "cross-listing" resources so that students who are remote can access other UC resources?
- A Fellow questions the mission values of the University moving forward:
 - Does the University want students to struggle and barely get through, or does it want them to be supported and thrive throughout their entire time
 - Do we feel as though the school is giving the message that "we will support you regardless"?
 - Is the University ready to work with other locations in the UC system to move to fully support students and not just force them through
- A Fellow provides some insight on the impacts of pandemics in a historical context
 - Current models predict that the next major pandemic is not in 100 years, but rather possibly in the next 20 years
 - Should we have a preparedness plan ready sooner than we should expect to use it?
- A Fellow also points out that there is a war in Eastern Europe, likely the first time such a major conflict many students have seen in their lifetime
 - This Fellow also points out that the inflation rate (the highest in recent history) is going to impact many economically disadvantaged students

- A Fellow adds in that frequent and open communication from the University should continue post-Pandemic
 - The University did a good job of facilitating the transition to the online realm
 - Zoom licenses, remote support, campus-wide testing and vaccine access
 - Communication from our Administration has definitely been a standout during the times of uncertainty
 - This is not the first time we have dealt with challenges as a campus:
 - Wildfires, PGE Blackouts, etc.
 - Are we taking the positives from the previous challenges that we have dealt with to deal with any challenges going forward?
- A Fellow continues with a discussion about institutional knowledge:
 - In this students' other organizations, this was the toughest struggle
 - They had just been a general member at the time when COVID hit, and then got voted up to leadership to start the return back to Campus
 - Many, if not all, student organizations were seriously impacted by this gap in institutional knowledge
 - Layoffs in campus Faculty and Staff also created serious gaps in knowledge
 - Some people have only experienced their roles via Zoom, and the transition back highlights the gaps and struggles
- A Fellow brings up some insight on the Order's operation prior to the pandemic:
 - The Order has maintained the traditions and standard protocols during this period of return to Campus
 - There is a general difference from term to term, but that is due to leadership transitions, not just because of COVID
- A Fellow follows up and postulates that Associate Fellows are primarily responsible for providing some historical context for the discussions because many of these topics have been discussed in previous cycles of students
- A Fellow touches on the changes in atmosphere of previous discussion meetings over the years
 - There have been a wide variety of conversation topics, and a wide array of opinions about each topic
 - Many discussions have had vehement disagreements and debates about various topics, but that aligns with the missions of the Order
 - Many Fellows have walked out of this room with a wider scope of understanding and ability

Discussion Adjourned at 7:32 PM.

The Meeting closed with Song, and notes were compiled by the Chronicler.