

February 7th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Topic: The City and the Campus Connection

Meeting called to Order: 6:00pm

Items for the good of the order:

- A fellow is planning an Igloo Camping social– further/logistics will be announced at an info meeting happening Tuesday, February 14th, 9:00 pm 2320 Warring Street. The info meeting will cover “how to build an igloo” and many other things in advance. The trip will happen in mid March.
- Start considering potential candidates to join the Order for next semester. Nomination and elections meeting will be held at the end of this semester.

Items for the good of the university:

- The ASUC election is starting soon and more details will be announced. The general timeline is: Candidates will announce around the end of February or early March. Polls will be open mid April.

On the topic of: The City and the campus connection:

- How is student involvement related to the city? How does the university support the prosperity of the city?
- Important distinction to be made between institution and community. The University campus is both an institution and a community. The head of the institution is the Chancellor. The community is the people on the campus. There is no definite head of the community. There are many leaders in the community. The same distinction between institution and community for the City of Berkeley.
- Community service in the City of Berkeley – The City's local community is supported in ways by the students at UC Berkeley. Through community service, many students have created lasting relationships with the people in the city. This community service can be seen in teaching in the local schools and it serves as a great interface between the campus community and the city community.
- Regarding the “Soulja Boy Concert” incident that happened in January – a student group called SUPERB organized a concert on campus for students. The event had poor crowd control practices and the concert floor became dangerous for the participants. Paramedics and police had to get involved. SUPERB is one of the largest organizations chartered by the ASUC.
- The university campus has a big impact on the businesses in the surrounding city. Over the pandemic, many small businesses have closed due to a lack of foot traffic. It seems like large stores are replacing small businesses.
- In terms of safety and security in Berkeley – from a student perspective, there is lots of major crime and violence that occurs off-campus. When transiting from campus to home, the areas outside of the campus do not feel safe. Crimes around campus have to be reported and students receive warnme’s. From a prospective student perspective, UC Berkeley is ranked last in terms of safety on a variety of college ranking systems.
- Highlighting a community service student group – The Berkeley Project. The group aims to permanently change the relationship between the students and residents of Berkeley through hands-on and virtual community service. This fellow wishes that both the campus and the city can support groups like this by giving them more of a platform.

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- The local community seems to welcome students – most businesses around the campus have pictures of students hung up in their stores. These pictures may include athletes, clubs, or other student groups.
- Berkeley as a college town is similar to how the Navy is a cash cow for the community that surrounds it. The university contributes to the city's income. Is there a mutually beneficial relationship here?
- Contention between the city and campus – As the university campus grows, it takes over real estate from the city. The City can no longer collect tax there because it is now state owned. In some cases, the campus actually takes away income from the city. That is one of the major bones of contention between the city and campus.
- Regarding safety – resources (Campus Safety Officers, Bearwalk, Night Safety Shuttle) have been unreliable since the pandemic. There is usually a long wait time and sometimes the shuttles do not show up. According to Cal Residential Halls and financial aid, living in dorms is considered “on-campus.”
- Housing around campus – The housing around campus is getting more and more expensive. Both Students and local residents are being priced out.
- Gentrification – The campus greatly affects the local population. With students' sprawling out in the neighborhoods around the campus, it is changing the environment of the surrounding campus.
- Contentions around housing
 - Local residents' lawsuit to cap UC Berkeley's enrollment ~ March 2022. The lawsuit challenged the impact the school's enrollment growth would have on city services, housing, and noise.
- Housing - resistant from City to University to build more buildings. City will lose control of areas they previously had. Land will become state property. Students and real estate developers have a coalition to get more housing.
- Groups from outside of the University can often be found on Sproul. The campus is known as a place to table.
- External perception of the city and campus. How does our reputation affect the demographics of the students that come into this city? The information found online is discouraging – there is a negative perception in terms of stress, safety, and cost of living.
- More effort needed from both the community and institution to create a better internet culture around Cal. There is lots of discussion seen on online forums (such as reddit) that paint Berkeley in a negative light. This is not welcoming to prospective students.
- The University brings lots of revenue to the City – people come to the city for the football game and other events. This is great for the businesses in the city, however, the buildings around campus do not have enough parking. This pushes people to public transit – which is a great idea, but not when public transit is being cut. The public transit infrastructure is underfunded. This is an inconvenience for faculty and students that like further off campus.
- On plans to develop more student housing – Is the university doing everything it can in its power to honor the commitments to the city in terms of rent and development?
- NIMBYs – do not want to see change, even if that change means progress. There are great ideas being proposed by students, but they are being ignored. The sentiment towards the student ideas is that: “you're only going to be here for 4 years, I'm going to be here for longer.” It's important to note that although students are only temporarily in the city, they make up for a big portion of

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the City's population. There are 45k students (2021 enrollment) and 117k population in Berkeley (US Census Bureau).

- What can the University do more to help alleviate the student housing crisis?
- Greek life and local residents – there is tension between the campus greek community and residents. There are many instances where residents have banded together to sue the fraternities on Greek row due to crowd and noise. This has led to a change in event management practices and a requirement to have fire permits for events.
- Telegraph for the people is a movement/protest where students are working to reclaim places that the university sees as part of the campus.
- Students have a hard time finding housing due to availability and affordability. People end up living very far away and have to BART to go to school. This affects their student experience as they can't stay late on campus for activities.
- The University is built on native land. Land acknowledgement is a statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous People as traditional stewards of this land. Land Grab University is a website where information and data can be found for financial incentives that go into building the University.
- A fellow acknowledges the value of Land acknowledgements, but feels like that people are just going through the motions. Can be seen as repetitive and performative.

Discussion Adjourned at 7:30 PM.

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