

# Order of The Golden Bear

διδάσκω

ESTABLISHED 1900

**Usually Place, March 21st, 2023**

The meeting was convened at 6:00pm

**Items for the good of the order:**

Election cycle information is sent out in Warden's email.

**Items for the good of the university:** *Does the University Prioritize Accommodations for the Berkeley Community? Below are some things to question or consider for the discussion, but please bring any related thoughts to share:*

- Consider the troubles of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and visitors.
- History of Disability Rights in Berkeley
- Ed Roberts was the first student to use a wheelchair to attend UC Berkeley. Him and a group of other physically disabled students came together and created the first organization for students with disabilities.
- I encourage you to listen to or read about the creation of curb cuts which happened right here in Berkeley thanks to Ed Roberts.
- Is the Loop service effective at getting students who need assistance around campus efficiently?
- Consider services available to those with chronic disability or temporary (such as broken bones) and physical or mental.
- Does the Disabled Students Program treat them all with the same efficiency and care?
- Appointments are difficult to acquire.
- Accommodations are very specific to individuals and it appears that not all promises are able to be met. Perhaps an issue of staffing or funding.
- Are some students who could take advantage of DSP afraid or hesitant to seek accommodations? Why?
- Are faculty members receptive to DSP accommodations - remembering to wear the microphone, using/providing course capture, laptop usage, note takers, additional time, closed-captioning, etc?
- How can students support their peers?
  
- According to the speaking fellow, there are concerns with the Loop mobility accommodation system at UC Berkeley. The IOS App is slow and the time estimate is inaccurate, which creates difficulties for users. Additionally, there are not enough drivers, resulting in wait times of up to 30 minutes. The Loop routes are also restricted to on-campus locations, which can be problematic for students who live off-campus, particularly those in areas such as Clark Kerr. However, the speaker notes that Loop is hiring drivers to address these issues.
- The speaker mentions that some campus buildings do not have accessibility maps, making it difficult for students with disabilities to navigate and attend classes. They suggest the need for accessibility maps to be available for all buildings on campus.

- A fellow is advocating for a more lenient withdrawal policy, citing that many students rely on the services and resources provided.
- The Disability Students Program is facing challenges due to insufficient resources to accommodate the high volume of requests. Students are experiencing delays in approval of their accommodation requests, and in some cases, their accommodations are not retroactively applied to assignments with early due dates. Instructors are facing difficulties in designing alternatives for certain assignments/exams due to the short notice of requests. Additionally, the DSP is severely understaffed, with only eight specialists handling over 4000 students. The issue does not appear to be a priority for the campus.
- Instructors and Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) appear to lack adequate training or education about Disability Students Program (DSP) accommodations, resulting in a disconnect between them and the program. The provision of accommodations varies from one class to another and is largely dependent on the faculty running the course. While some faculty are accommodating, others exhibit negative sentiments and believe that students may attempt to exploit the system. This has resulted in some faculty questioning the validity of accommodations and requiring specific writing on assignments on a case-by-case basis, instead of accepting the general 150% time. Furthermore, there seems to be a discrepancy in how faculty interpret the language in the accommodation letters, creating additional burden on both the DSP and the students. Most courses have only a single teaching assistant handling accommodations, further compounding the issue.
- Mandatory training for instructors on the subject of Disability Students Program (DSP) accommodations may help address the disconnect between instructors and the program. Such training could ensure that instructors and GSIs have a comprehensive understanding of the accommodations available to students with disabilities and how to implement them effectively in their courses. It could also help address any negative sentiments or misunderstandings that some faculty may have towards DSP accommodations. By providing instructors with the necessary knowledge and skills, mandatory training could improve the consistency and quality of accommodations across courses, leading to better outcomes for students with disabilities. Moreover, this could help reduce the burden on DSP and students by clarifying expectations and ensuring that accommodations are provided in a timely and efficient manner. Overall, mandatory training for instructors on DSP accommodations could be a crucial step towards promoting a more inclusive and equitable learning environment for students with disabilities.
- Regarding the issue of implementing mandatory training for instructors on Disability Students Program (DSP) accommodations, the university appears to have some pushback. While it is true that faculty already have mandatory training requirements, it may be difficult to require them to run their classes in a specific way, including the provision of DSP accommodations. Additionally, the university may not have the legal authority to mandate faculty behavior or actions. However, the campus does have the power to articulate its expectations and could potentially implement mandatory training for instructors on DSP accommodations. While many training programs are required by law, such as sexual assault training, there may still be a need for additional training on DSP accommodations to ensure that all students are able to access their education in a fair and equitable manner. Overall, it may be important for the university to consider the potential benefits of implementing mandatory training on DSP accommodations and to weigh these benefits against

any potential challenges or pushback. By providing instructors with the necessary knowledge and skills, the university could help ensure that all students receive the accommodations they need to succeed academically.

- Universities do not have the power to discipline students for actions in their personal lives that do not directly violate university policies or codes of conduct. However, universities may still have a responsibility to address behaviors that could impact the safety and well-being of the campus community, even if they occur outside of university grounds or hours.
- According to university policy, accommodations for religious creeds are not provided by the campus. However, students are allowed to request accommodations for their religious practices. The policy is based on the principle of "reason common sense", which suggests that accommodations should be granted if they do not cause undue burden or disruption to the university's operations. The fellow advocates for applying the same reasoning towards DSP accommodations.
- A fellow mentions that some people may question why they are required to prove their need for accommodations and navigate a bureaucratic process to have their disability recognized. However, this process is typically in place to ensure that accommodations are provided in a fair and equitable manner, and to prevent abuse of the accommodation system.

Discussion Adjourned at 7:30 PM.

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