

Order of The Golden Bear

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ESTABLISHED 1900

Usual Place, February 20, 2024

The meeting was convened at 6:00 PM.

Items for the good of the Order:

- A reminder that today's initial meeting topic got moved to the next Order meeting
- Still looking for a Steward

Items for the good of the University: Are We Prepared? – Individually and Collectively

- A Fellow mentions that District 7 is running a city council debate. Invited all those who can, to attend. There will be two Berkeley students in the debate.

Warden goes through the following headers:

- Active Campus shooter on Friday, February 9th
 - How did students, faculty, and administrators first hear about this?
 - Effectiveness of UC Berkeley Warn Me
 - Where did communication specifically falter in getting information to Berkeley in a timely manner?
 - To what extent is this used solely as an administrative tool for compliance with the Clery Act?
 - In what ways has the UC Berkeley Warned Me system benefitted the campus community in its current state?
 - Aversion to police presence and law enforcement/allocation of police resources to emergency situations
- Are students prepared for what to do?
 - What is the university doing to prepare the campus for emergency/dangerous situations?
 - What are our individual and collective responsibilities as student groups as members of the Campus community?
 - What are our feelings on responsibilities as student groups as members of the Campus community?
 - What accountability is there for student organizations in emergency situations?
 - Death of a student in Clark Kerr on February 13th, 2024
- How does the university account for students/faculty in an emergency situation?
- The University's changing stance on the protocol for emergency situations (Hide or run, fight or obey)
- How does the media report on emergency situations/safety and danger around the university?
- Safety concerns for students with minority cultural/ethnic identities

- Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia
 - To what extent does the campus community distinguish between Jewish, Zionist, and Israeli identities? To what extent does the campus community distinguish between Hamas, Palestine, and Islam?
 - What has the university done to protect Jewish and Muslim students from Anti-Semitism/Islamophobia since the outbreak of conflict between Israel and Hamas on October 7th, 2023?
 - How safe do Jewish and Muslim students unaffiliated with the political conflict feel around the university? How safe do they feel speaking up about safety concerns?
 - What is the threshold between hate speech and a potential threat to student safety?
- Asians, Asian Americans, Pacific Islander Americans, and others of Asian Descent
 - A car set on fire in SF Chinatown during the Lunar New Year parade on February 10th
 - In the wake of the Stop Asian Hate movement from 2021-2022, how has the campus and campus community upheld efforts to support the safety of Asian-descendant students?
- A few years removed from the 2020 murder of George Floyd and activism led by the Black Lives Matter movement, by what means has the university taken long-term action to protect its black and African-descendent students, faculty, and organizations from threats to safety?
- To what extent is an effort to protect the safety of various cultural/ethnic identities performative, depending on a given political climate? In what ways has the community been successful in improving long-term safety measures for these students?
- Are we as individuals and as a community prepared?

The Warden opens the floor for discussion.

A Fellow mentions a conversation about sexual harassment years ago that went into national effect. But its implementation fell far short. Mentions the fear of not knowing active shooting training, and it is unsure why people are not having self-defense courses. Also highlights the hatred against blacks, Muslims, etc., because it is the biggest threat to national security, per the FBI. Which raises concerns around the student community and the world.

Another Fellow was raised to share their experience after the fire occurring in the hills. The Fellow mentions that there are many iterations on how to conduct safety. The goal at the time of the officer is not to put signs around campus for when a natural disaster occurs. But this training has not been widely available. The Fellow is curious about how these lines of support have been effective. Or even used?

Another Fellow mentions that there was a stunning difference in reporting between last week's active shooter on campus compared to that of two years ago. The DailyCal was the only news outlet reporting. Fellow suggests phrasing this active shooting as a "March of Our Lives," centering around protecting students is better and should be the general approach.

Another Fellow highlights that it is sad to use rhetoric to mask what is currently going on with shooters. This leads to ineffective measures like closing the MLK building to the public, except for students after 5:00 PM. The University should be entitled to care about the safety of students. A quick change should take place. During the last shooting, Muslim at Haas students were overwhelmed with bombarded

misinformation – reasonably justifiable given that this community has been the target of multiple incidents. The Fellow urges for an immediate change addressing better channels of communication.

Another Fellow mentions that the campus should not be closed. The Fellow highlights that safety is impossible, it is the reality of the world that we are in. Urges for better communication channels, and operations. The UCPD should not be 4X its size. The Fellow provides a reason as to why the last time a message did not go out through WarnMe was because the shooter was detained within the first 46 seconds.

Another Fellow adds that having guns and more police does not guarantee safety. Also, wonders whether the University has in place pipelines to address disasters. Community Emergency Class Dorm (CECD) you learned how to survive disasters.

A Fellow mentions that there is an issue with earthquake preparations. Mentioned that we are 50 years overdue. The Fellow encourages everyone to get trained for self-defense and when natural disasters may happen.

A Fellow asks present Fellows if it is worth putting metal detectors in large gathering places. Does it provide real safety? Or just a false sense of security?

Another Fellow responds to the question previously posted. The Fellow states that metal detectors usually target people of color. These measures tend to vilify people and harm others.

Another Fellow mentions that to address this safety is to address poverty, mental health, and better public transportation. The Fellow flags that Berkeley is an innovative place and, hence, urges Fellows to leverage it.

Another Fellow mentions that gun violence has already impacted the campus a long time ago. For instance, the Fellow recalls the killing of a Berkeley student studying abroad back in 2016. Fellow reiterates that we should focus on providing these resources for others.

Another Fellow contends that there should be a curriculum/education change – particularly, on what students should know about safety. Mentions that at Clark Kerr there was an overdose, and in their experience, the University has done little to address it. It would be interesting to have a class that combines disaster preparedness and/or overdose, the Fellow remarks.

Another Fellow mentions that the bare minimum about safety should be taught to faculty and administrators.

Another Fellow provides a solution that can be implemented during Golden Bear Orientation, so students are more aware of the reality of campus issues. GBO is a great way to inform and have students should be on the lookout.

Another Fellow states that students, faculty, family, and staff should know the reality of the campus issues and how to address them. It is part of Golden Bears to educate everyone new: a very useful and popular way to go about would be through GBO. The Fellow mentions that the faculty does not know what to do in the case of a major emergency. It would be helpful to add what to do in the case of an emergency on the syllabus of all classes.

A Fellow expresses that the way we respond to crises is due to their traumas. Everyone ought to learn that there are different ways to educate through accessible and digestible platforms. The Fellow mentions that there is a lot of apathy and that trauma can affect how are educated.

Another Fellow talks about their experience in previous training. They suggest adding training on CalCentral and having RSO clubs know how to handle safety-related issues – online training should be approachable.

Another Fellow adds that during the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 landlines were essential – something to keep in mind in case we experience an earthquake. That is because all the reliance we have on cell phones will go down with the antennas/cell towers. The Fellow mentions that AT&T lobbyists are pushing to not keep the maintenance to landlines. Urges everyone to send letters to avoid the lobby.

Another Fellow brings the conversation back to safety stating that UCPD used to give training. This past January they started emergency preparedness. Another issue is to learn how to go about self-safety. The Fellow adds that in the case of a campus-wide emergency, there is enough food and water to maintain about 30,000 people for three days. Fellow ended their remark by stating that are horrible to each other, and that everyone must keep an eye on others. The more we do for each other, the better the society becomes.

Another Fellow adds to the conversation to AT&T landlines. The Fellow defines how landlines work: the phone is connected to a wire that goes out to the street: an old-fashioned telephone. The only thing that works during a natural disaster. AT&T owns all the landlines in the Bay Area, and they want to lobby them. The Fellow touches upon another issue: the hatred and intolerance of the conservative voice make it at risk for people to freely express their voices. The Fellow adds that this campus is intolerant to people who disagree with you, perhaps even socially. Other universities -- even UCs -- do not have so much intolerance to other people's opinions, and these institutions are better prepared to deal with and address issues of safety.

Warden acknowledged the previous Fellow's statement and asked: What the University is doing around those who are from different beliefs politically and culturally?

Another Fellow shared their experience with the shooting recently. The Fellow was hosting an event at Haas for Muslim students, and when misinformation spread, they panicked. The psychological effects are stark as one student left in the middle of the evacuation, fearing for his life. The Fellow asks: Is the University preparing students to deal with safety-related issues? Who to contact during these situations? UCPD did not respond properly and should communicate better to ease these turbulent situations.

A Fellow speaks on their experience last semester when someone was waving Swastikas at a fraternity. The Fellow wonders: How safe is a space hosting a large number of targeted individuals with cultural and political identities?

Another Fellow highlights a disconnect between causes. Acknowledges the underlying causes of violence and agrees that being prepared for it is important. The Fellow states an ultimate is not just being prepared, instead, wonders... is there something bigger that can be done to address underlying causes.

Another Fellow shared their experience about a friend who had a mental/psychotic breakdown and committed harm towards other people, and themselves.

Another Fellow acknowledges how educational this hour has been. The Fellow has found a gap between the individual and the collective. Calls that finding a middle ground on how to look out for each other is essential.

Another Fellow, states, that given the complexity of the issues, it is hard to address safety concerns. Everyone must educate themselves in the environments in which we are. The institutions are supposed to reduce the window of errors and it would only be possible with redundancy in all channels possible to inform the campus-wide community on how to behave in the face of crisis. Which should be an interwoven strategy.

A Fellow highlights that over these 5 years at Cal, no incident has happened to them. Nonetheless, hearing the students' experiences, they see the gravity of the situation. The Fellow shared an experience with a housemate who got shot in the head, and since then their sense of security has been shattered. Hence, the importance of spreading information properly and providing outlets to navigate difficult situations.

Another Fellow mentions using TikTok as a platform to reach and remind people. The Fellow adds this should be extended to Cal's parents whose car windows have shattered because of the robbery.

Another Fellow offers two thoughts.

1: Most people agree that UCB has an unsafe reputation. Hence, let us build trust through mechanisms. To ultimately prevent this from happening (if only WarnMe and the student would give the right information, to address that this was not a direct threat to Muslim students in Haas). Also, cultivate a stronger sense of where resources are to inform themselves.

2: Regarding training and resources to tune into in case of an emergency, University events like GBO should be geared to inform students about it. The Fellow still questions how effective these approaches are, as oftentimes the conversation is around students ending up their own "thing" and disintegrating from their programmed schedule – as some are optional. Hence, it should be revised to address real issues.

Another Fellow mentions that there is a positive incentive towards educating people to get compliance. (Doing something for someone who you care about and getting reciprocity)

A Fellow speaks on an incident at Henry's – a hostage situation, which ended badly. They have not seen so many incidents around assault, robbing, and mugging. So, they had to do training on Sexual Harassment, IT security... some videos that students, faculty, and admin should watch. Additionally, the Fellow is shocked at how international students aren't aware of their surroundings. It is important to take care of each and collect more ideas to protect one another.

Another Fellow wanted to double down to do at least 3-5 minutes – at the beginning of each semester as part of all teaching professors' syllabus -- for evacuation safety.

Another Fellow commends the previous Fellow's comments, especially at the Evans building.

Another Fellow emphasizes that these topics are important, and the Fellow suppressed and never took time to digest these occurrences. Recommended for all Fellow and the wide-campus community to take some time to process one thing at a time, as these are traumatic experiences.

Discussion Adjourned at 7:30 PM. The Meeting closed in Song. Notes were compiled by the Chronicler.