



Order of The Golden Bear

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ESTABLISHED 1900

Usual Place, March 05, 2024

The meeting was convened at 6:00 PM.

Items for the good of the Order:

- A Fellow encourages student Fellows to consider taking on leadership roles within the Order.
- A Fellow encourages student Fellows, particularly graduating seniors, to go to Fentons Creamery at least once before they graduate and invites all Fellows to join after the next Discussion meeting.
- A Fellow confirms that there is a Discussion meeting in two weeks.
- A Fellow asks what Fentons is.
- A Fellow clarifies that Fentons is a creamery with amazing ice cream and is a quintessential part of the Cal experience.
- The Warden acknowledges the low attendance in the room and ties it to the lack of a designated Steward to procure pre-meeting meals.
- A Fellow suggests a lack of consistency in Fellow assistance and proposes a potluck given that Fellows do lose out on the experience when there's inconsistency.
- A Fellow suggests a potluck for the next pre-meeting meal. The Warden agrees that this is a good idea. There is a discussion meeting on Tuesday.
- Another Fellow invites the Fellowship to attend the Berkeley Charter Gala on March 16th, 2024.

Items for the good of the University: The Chancellor Search.

- A Fellow highlights the Chancellor's actions after the incident on Monday, February 23rd, regarding the on-campus Israeli speaker. It is stated that there is an ongoing investigation into the violence that was allegedly committed, aiming to avoid similar occurrences in the future. A Fellow questions the Chancellor's actions, considering the tensions in Israel and Gaza. How did they allow the speaker to be shut down? What about the students? A Fellow recalls an incident occurring 5-7 years ago resulting in the violent burning of the Amazon Hub on MLK when a conservative speaker came on campus. The Fellow further explains their skepticism and wonders if the University is only trying to be politically correct or trying to protect its public image. The Fellow states that the campus community is not tolerant of conservative views. Although the letter released by the Chancellor reinforces the ideals of protecting free speech, how can violence be avoided?
- In March, Ramadan starts, a time of community gathering and not exclusivity. The Fellow advocates for a little grace and empathy for those fasting.
- A Fellow invites the Fellowship to attend an event at I-House on Tuesday, March 12th.
- A Fellow highlights an increase in police presence around campus since Monday, March 4th.
- The Warden comments on the Chancellor's policy to reinstate alumni Berkeley email addresses.
- Warden Introduces new topic:

- How is a Chancellor usually decided upon?
- San Diego's recently added private endowment for the Chancellor
- Who is involved in deciding a Chancellor? Who consults those who directly make this decision?
- What are the values and components that the community would like to see in the next Chancellor?
- What are specific considerations for Berkeley in 2024 that the incoming Chancellor will need to be equipped to address?
- What has the campus community learned from the town halls that have already been held?
- How is the university providing outlets for the community to give their input on the matter?

A Fellow speaks on the qualities a Chancellor should possess given the student's body proactiveness with their ideas. Does the Chancellor have a passion? Have you shown their passion? How will the Chancellor continue fostering it? Will the Chancellor be someone who is capable of dealing with the proactive issues at Cal? Additionally, the Chancellor should have a love for Cal and a vested interest in what it means to be a Cal student. Contrary to popular view, the Chancellor not only loved Cal but was also able to deal with so many issues, the Fellow states. Their biggest achievement is the undergraduate library, for instance. The Fellow recalls when the free speech movement emerged, it was not left or right-leaning. But when the anti-Vietnam War movement arose, it became a politicized issue. The Fellow is torn about the ongoing issue between Jewish and Palestinian groups – which they consider an issue not rooted in left or right ideologies or one where Cal is favoring one side. Instead, the issues are much bigger than we can understand. But things evolve for the better. Or at least, that is the Fellow's hope. OGB is an example that used to be male-dominated, and over the years it became more progressive. To select a new Chancellor, students and faculty should have input to consider various factors in the selection process as they need to be open factors, the Fellow remarks.

Another Fellow speaks on their uncertainty about what it means to be a Chancellor. The Fellow highlights that we should prioritize what we want in a Chancellor this year.

Another Fellow emphasizes that the next Chancellor has not been selected yet. Instead, we should all discuss how to positively influence this transition to the chancellorship. The Fellow invites us to reflect on how we can positively influence the transition period.

A Fellow stated that the UC President was forwarded a list of finalists and that the new Chancellor would be announced either at the March or May Regents meeting.

Another Fellow emphasizes that the new Chancellor needs to be accessible and shake hands with the student body.

A Fellow argues that the next Chancellor should pave the way to increase the endowment and inspire the student and alumni base. The Fellow argues that over the past years, tons of money has been directed towards athletic buildings, which has proved futile. The Chancellor needs to be a leader, have vision, and be a great communicator. Berkeley is missing free speech forums, and safe structures to openly discuss, and needs to commit fully to how we want the university to express its full potential.

Another Fellow points out that the ASUC at Cal is different, and the current Chancellor did not understand that. The ASUC at Cal is powerful, and the new Chancellor needs to understand that.

Another Fellow speaks on their experience with the search committee for Chancellors. The Chancellor has introduced communication to the campus community, reconciled budget deficits, and has been part of fundraising efforts. One thing about the search committee is that they wanted somebody who understood Cal as an academic institution, the Fellow stated. The previous Chancellor recognized that UCB was so big and could only focus on 2-3 big issues during their term. The current Chancellor, on the other hand, has confronted community issues with grace and thoughtfulness. The current Chancellor has been at Cal for a while: chair of the English department, an English professor, and a provost. Keep in mind, that UCB is a premier institution for research, and UCLA is the only competition at the undergraduate level. Deans are the nobles of the campus; at academic levels, they manage the resources. The Fellow ends their remarks by emphasizing the importance of relationships between Deans and Chancellors, pivotal to making a successful transition and cohesive functioning of the University.

The Warden asks the Fellowship what are their thoughts on how the transition of Chancellor should look.

A Fellow speaks on their experience with the Chancellor transitions from an executive perspective. The mission of the new Chancellor needs to be articulated. Properly informing about the organizational structure, schools, who the key personnel are, explaining the process of how things get done, and introducing the Chancellor to the entire community. They suggest that the new Chancellor should be introduced to the Order and they ought to attend the Fellowship because it is a place for proper discussion and new perspectives can emerge. The Fellow ends by questioning why Cal did not invest in a medical school as opposed to a stadium.

Another Fellow asks about the recommendation made to the UC President about the potential new Chancellor. The Fellow favors a current Associate Vice Chancellor who demonstrates deeply rooted involvement with the student body. The Fellow asks: Who is the new Chancellor? And what is the vision?

Another Fellow responds to the previous Fellow. The Fellow mentions that a Dean of one of the campus' professional schools may be a potential candidate, and their vision will be around dealing with housing issues and freedom of speech on campus.

Another Fellow mentions that in their personal experience, they favor a corporate leader who listens. If, in the case of the new Chancellor, they do not know the complexity of the place, at least listen for the first 100 days they ought to listen and familiarize themselves with the University.

Another Fellow mentions their experience with two transitions. The Fellow states that the better Chancellors have some level of knowledge of the campus, and ask: who controls what? There are no actual coordinated efforts to transition.

A Fellow speaks about an open letter they wrote to the Chancellor. The Fellow speaks about a passive attitude towards the event, a similar event to what happened on January 6th. The Fellow argues that a university's role is to teach, instill an opening of the mind, and enlighten processing with open debate accompanied by civility. If a controversial speaker comes to campus, why isn't a different one coming the next day? Or what about having a town hall open Q&A? People are here on Campus to hear each other and not in their silos to push each other. The Fellow remarks. The Fellow recalls their time during the Speech Movement when a speaker named Mario Savio was on campus and spoke about various issues of the day - from a left position. The speaker would say, "I submit for your consideration" and not stop at a time, an invitation to students to challenge and contribute to their thoughts. The Fellow hopes the new Chancellor will create open avenues for the improvement of society. Berkeley can be the spark it used to be.

A Fellow speaks on an independent project at the Political Science department that they have been working on. The Fellow highlights that only 9 countries in the world have reduced polarization, by crossing the aisle for each other – having the willingness to speak with people with different opinions. Student leaders ought to foster at worst apathy, at best an uncomfortable conversation that will enable the production of empathy and care for the other perspectives of an issue.

Another Fellow builds upon the theme of accessibility, and adding empathy to transition. The Fellow remarks their disappointment in the letter handed to the Fellowships. The Fellow states that what is not protected gets amplified, and what is not does not. The Fellow then emphasizes that the Chancellor has an extreme responsibility to allow access and foster empathy. A lot of misconstrued information can be amplified quickly, and when this happens, atrocities across the world emerge. Such is the case of a University student in some loom part of New England that resulted harmed and paralyzed by another individual who assumed that the student was a Hamas member. The students were not even Palestinian. The Fellow states that it is this type of email, is filled with assumptions, exacerbating certain issues. There is a difference between free speech versus amplifying words, the Fellow states.

Another Fellow appreciates the letter because it resonates with such efforts. The Fellow recalls their reachouts to Harvard leaders to address contemporary issues. The Fellow attempted to personally address the previous Fellow directly and was reminded by the Warden to abide by the Order's Protocols. The Fellow apologizes and continues with his thought process. The Fellow shares Harvard's tenets, discovering truth – which is about the light, they state. The Fellow elaborates saying that this is about “us being the light, and what we have gotten really away from.” The Fellow has researched all the values of the communities. Since 1868, a lot of information has been done. Free speech is not about who is right and wrong; free speech is about looking for the truth, they remark. The Fellow remembers Mario Savio. The Fellow highlights that everyone is deserving of dignity. Human abomination is not about truth. Fiat Lux is about the truth. The Fellow mentions the ecclesiastical order and makes a connection to UC Berkeley: “As humans, our job is to create structure, systems, and/or things to support all of the world. One half-step between us and angels can be achieved, and that is what the University is about. UC Berkeley is a well-respected University. Unfortunately, a lot of places do not understand UC Berkeley. UCB ought to achieve fiat lux.” The Fellow recognizes that there is a lot of passion and vision, and these should be implemented by the new Chancellor for the sake of truth and knowledge.

The Warden asks: What has the campus community learned from the town halls that have already been held? How is the University providing outlets for the community to give their input on the matter?

A Fellow invites the new Chancellor to look at this issue from a civic perspective. UCB has forgotten to compromise, and how to get things done by working with other people. A task force should be a priority with the arrival of the new Chancellor.

Another Fellow speaks to the Warden's point. They have been working with a community of people who broke into the Capital on January 6th – for the most part, taking calls with MAGA supporters saying that the election was stolen. They have heard it over and over, through NBC and the campaign manager. Free-the-facts is an organization that should be brought on campus because it brings different perspectives on campus, and provides a platform to speak for everyone.

Another Fellow mentions how a course can be created around educating people on how to be more empathetic. In the '60s, the Fellow recalls, where professors came together to bring different views and exploration opportunities were provided. This exploration needs to deepen. An instance where people are visceral is the idea

that the election was stolen from Trump supporters: maybe that is something visceral because they feel disrespected by educated people. We are all human beings, we all need an array finite of needs. Beneath all these warring ideas, people think that their fundamental ideas/needs are not being met, the Fellow concludes.

A Fellow responds to transition. The Fellow suggests, that this is the time of movement, and senior-leveled people in positions of power will leave because the new leadership's vision might not align with theirs. When the next Chancellor comes in, they will be making replacements. The Fellow mentions that usually, people use UC Berkeley as a resume builder. Therefore, the new Chancellor should focus on administration staff with a deeper connection with the University.

The Warden closes all remarks by commenting on how we as a community foster and make up the Cal community. And our voices and opinions should shape the decisions made at the higher level.

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