



# Order of The Golden Bear

δῶκω

ESTABLISHED 1900

**Usual Place, March 19, 2024**

*The meeting was convened at 6:00 PM.*

**Items for the good of the Order:**

- Fellow were invited to attend Fentons after the meeting
- A Fellow asked, if anyone objected to having the windows open, given that room temperature was high
- Wadern warned the Fellowship that elections are coming up in April, and cautioned that if anyone is interested in taking any leadership positions (Chronicler, Steward, and Warden) to reach out
- The Steward position is still available, if anyone is interested please to reach out

**Items for the good of the University: Tradition**

- A Fellow shared a new class taught this upcoming summer, titled AMERSTD 102AC 001 - Examining US Cultures in Place
- A Fellow raise their concern on an open letter from Chancellor proposing protesting policies and procedures revisions and having a team monitor the ongoing protest on Sather Gate
- A Fellow follows up from the same email and states that the University is being diligent in understanding different point of views
- Another Fellow mentioned that an event was rescheduled, taking place on Monday April 18th. The reason why the rescheduling was undisclosed is because organizers wanted to avoid unnecessarily unrest
- A Fellow asked the previous speaker to share their insights from the meeting, if any
- The previous Fellow responded by stating that they did not attend the meeting, but that from word of mouth from their colleagues people from both discussion parties engaged in meaningful discussion, and avoided physical altercations
- Another Fellow mentions that the ASUC is working to create a working group to set guidelines and implement this particular clause. Which, the Fellow adds, can restrict certain speakers, and warns that this could be a dangerous rabbit hole
- A Fellow extended an invitation to the Fellowship to the inaugural Women's Basketball Invitation Tournament on Thursday at 7 at Haas Pavilion
- Warden shared talking points with the Fellowship:
  - Sports tradition with change from Pac-12 to ACC
  - Changing building names/destruction of buildings
  - Historic buildings on campus and protection of these buildings/necessity
  - Status quo vs evolution: "How does either support our campus and its communities?"
  - Student body structure/ASUC

- Holidays that are recognized by the university and not recognized by the university
- Club culture and distribution of funding for club
- Where do our traditions get in our way/stand in our way/prevent us from moving into the future?
- What is the importance of having traditions around Berkeley at all? Why do we care?
- What are our newest traditions?
- What role has technology played in evolving tradition
- How old is Berkeley-time?
- Tradition of tabling on Sproul
- How has using the term tradition allowed for outdated practices to remain in practice?
- Lost traditions (ex: Bowles Hall lost traditions)
- What traditions have served only certain segments of population? Have traditions catered to all demographics of students? Do they need to cater to all students simultaneously?
- How have traditions evolved to become more inclusive?

Warden opens the floor discussion for the Fellowship:

A Fellow shares that coming to UCB's campus they've had the privilege to be part of Cal's sports. But the Fellow voices concerns that UCB joining the ACC may prove detrimental given the distance. The Fellow hopes that events continue to be sustained.

Another Fellow reflects as a student, and alumni that, perhaps their nostalgia, there used to be more comradery and understanding between undergraduates. The Fellow questions whether it is because the University does not have as many events that draw campus-wide events. The Fellow also wondered if funding small clubs also contributed to the diminishing in campu-wide events. The Fellow ends their statement asking: Has this shift led to students to have less empathy to hear one another? What is the ASUC doing to build campus-wide culture?

Another Fellow highlights that the ASUC currently supports the UC Rally Committee and SUPERB who throw campus-wide events. The Fellow acknowledges that SUPERB has not been as consistent over the past year.

Another Fellow mentions that the issue, often time, is the lack of student knowledge about campus-wide events. The Fellow suggests having a giant Google Calendar shareable to all students.

Another Fellow shifts the conversation. The Fellow argues that the magnitude of contemporary multi racially and politically inclined issues present a unique set of challenges to building tradition.

A Fellow questions what the role of alumni on building tradition should be. Upon graduation, the Fellow mentioned, other universities have strong ties with their alumni, but not Cal.

Another Fellow builds back on what a previous mentioned about a campus-wide calendar. The Fellow adds that such a structure already exists for faculty and should be worth building a calendar for all students. Also, the Fellow talks about Alumni relations. During the Big Give, they received 19 emails to donate, which suggest a lack of central-cohesive location and a centralized model of information is needed, the Fellow stated.

Another Fellow mentions a Latine-initiated calendar from two ASUC senators launched, which can be used as a mode of departure or modeling for a campus-wide calendar.

A Fellow speaks in regards to the alumni relations entity. The Fellow adds that such an alumni relations entity exists. The Fellow clarifies that one might think and feel that the alumni relations only want to keep touch with alumni to ask for money, but that is a misconception. For instance, the Big Give is not a tradition, it is a fundraising effort. Big Give used to be part of a tradition, but no longer is because the narrative changed. The Fellow adds that we can build traditions by donating one dollar. Another used-to-be tradition is the Charter event, but the University took the tradition off of it, and made it just a fundraising event.

A Fellow centers the conversation on how the Athletics Department is largely at fault for the lack of traditions. The Fellow, in 2012 and this past October, wrote letters to get in touch with Cal Athletics suggesting ways to encourage events – and collaborations with various groups, but there was no response. The Fellow further adds that Cal Athletics has no connection with Cal tradition, and the alumni should give input into what the traditions should look like. A simple example, the Fellow added, is chants during football games. When the Fellow used to be a student in the '60s, the Charter used to be affordable and everyone could attend. Who will carry down tradition? The Fellow wonders. The Fellow ends their remarks by saying that there is a lot of lack of information which undermines the sense of cohesion in the student body – when we are such a diverse community.

Another Fellow agrees that there were a great series of traditions. It was a big deal for Charter Day, they helped a student from 1895. The Fellow adds that the Chancellor from back then focused on education because it was a hook, and was imbued with the traditions of the University. The Fellow remembers that there was a faculty advisor in the Rally Committee that would teach about traditions. Unfortunately, this has been lost given the emphasis put on football and profits, the Fellow adds. There is no person in executive positions that knows the University, the Fellow states because the University hires people who cannot get into Cal. Therefore, they lack the University experience and knowledge. The Fellow continues stating that they are willing to spend time with the alumni association, and reinforces that there is a great deal of people willing to spend time with the University to foster traditions. In their experience, the ASUC used to host a movie for students, but now there is no one around that cares enough to continue this tradition. The Fellows end their remarks by saying that the Cal Athletics Department only cares about money and not about the school spirit; they are mostly business hires who come here to make money; and therefore, suggests that there must be a committee incharge of traditions. With a better alumni entity should translate into alumni giving back to the University.

A Fellow mentions that people in positions of power make a difference in school spirit. The Fellow adds that it is saddening to hear that people are losing traditions. Continues by establishing that there are students that are fighting and care about school spirit – but no one to hear them. The Fellow states that a significant amount of students in the Cal spirit space want to help. The Fellow mentions for instance the role that the Mic Men and Women have, and that there are a lot of lost chants.

Another Fellow mentions that the odds are systemically stacked against tradition. A vast majority in the Cal Athletics department are not rewarded to foster culture and tradition, instead from generating new ideas to put on their resume and move on.

A Fellow who states works for the UDAR is trying to hire new staff. The Fellow adds that there are myriad mixers and events put together to get alumni to be together. The Fellow contends that Charter day was sponsored in UDAR but unfortunately did not carry because they were shut down by protesters. Hence, they were moved to Lower Sproul, where they had less visibility. Moreover, the Fellow mentions that finance is the biggest part of these events that nurture tradition. They mentioned that the Bonfire event alone was between \$50,000 to \$60,000 per bonfire making it impossible to host around 3-4 times a year, as a previous Fellow suggested earlier.

Another Fellow mentions that we all are siloed. There is not a platform to discuss common problems and issues. The Fellow adds there is no one within Cal Athletics that can sit down to discuss with students.

A Fellow the University hiring consultants to understand traditions and internal issues, as opposed to the campus community itself. Furthermore, the Fellow mentions another fundamental challenge which is the transfer student experience, and being more isolated from traditions than traditional undergrads. The Fellow shifts the conversation to campus-wide hiring practices. The Fellow states that within academic departments, and other non-academic positions hires are not Cal grads because they bring new traditions... such traditions might do well in their previous jobs/institutions, but they prove futile at Cal. This is a recurring practice that has fed a vicious cycle for over 20 years. The Fellow advocates that existing traditions, composed of campus-wide communities and small ones, should aim to make more connections with the greater campus. That is because this is an important way to keep us connected, and, hopefully, some day these traditions will become ubiquitous like St. Patrick's Day, and it should live. The Fellow finishes by saying that it is more important than ever to get our traditions going so that everyone gets them and understands us.

A Fellow notes that University always says that there is not enough money for traditions, but the University has not made the most wise-financial decisions either. The Fellow emphasizes that trying to have both diversity and monoculture at Cal is crucial.

A Fellow talks about traditions, states that Wheeler and Zellebarch transitioned from being students' point of gathering and traditions to performance places. The Fellow switches their conversation to change, good change

does not happen over nights. The Fellow believes in a way to involve alumni. The Fellow highlights that while some alumni from before 1960s and post 1970 talk about what Cal looked like for them, they neglect and aren't conscious of how much the safety and security was enforced on a lack of diversity during these times. The Fellow adds that the pre-1960s crowd has some ideas on what it feels like to enjoy those traditions. But the students from the post-1970s and their political beliefs lead them to neglect those "traditions." Most of the radical students, in the 1990s, thought of Berkeley as a high bound and reactionary place due to their intellectual inclinations and the material political structures. The Fellow mentions that the University is radical and oftentimes that means detaching from "traditions" that oftentimes harmed the liberties of other student groups. The Fellowship itself is a radical place.

A Fellow speaks to those harming traditions. The Fellow adds that the Vice-Chair of the Rally Committee has had calls from alumni requesting the Cal Haka chant to be performed during the bonfire. Things like this disrupt traditions. Playing devil advocates, the Fellow states, a lot of people within Engineering do not care about traditions. Now may be the time to understand the new ways to introduce tradition – healthy traditions, the Fellow remarks.

Another Fellow speaks on the rationale of why campus facilities are expensive. That is because the campus is charging for the use of the Greek Theater – which used to be a student designated place. The Cal Band is charged a huge amount to perform there, and this would not be an issue if they did not charge. The Fellow contends that sometimes traditions start a year before and continue when students care about it not so much when students are constrained. When there is autonomy there is more passion. The Fellow also points out that there is not a fixed location where the band is located, for instance, in Haas Pavilion. Which contributed to the lack of tradition. The University has made it difficult to find friends, enroll in classes, find housing, and even food – why would students and alumni give their money? Statement with which the Fellow ends his statement.

Another Fellow speaks about the importance of releasing admittances before April. Considering Cal Day as a tradition, this shaped the Fellow decisions in attending Cal. The Fellow believes that it harms students' experiences, particularly transfer students, who often lack the same experience as regular Freshman. The Fellow finished by stating that about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the student body at Cal are made up from transfer students.

A Fellow mentions Cal day, Charter week, and Homecoming should incorporate more students. They say that on a more positive note, traditions don't translate into campus-wide events, but small traditions are crucial. A particular experience the Fellow shares that marked them was when they got admitted into Cal, and got a call from an alumni in their vicinity. The Fellow is interested in continuing that tradition and hopes that it's continuing.

A Fellow shifts the conversation, and urges for better information channels for the campus community. The Fellow adds that the University marketing team should do a better job. The Fellow suggests putting a screen on Telegraph to promote campus-wide events, and student events. Based on a study that the Fellow conducted,

about 20,000 people walk by – without accounting for the traffic – the MLK, and Student Store buildings... This, the Fellow adds, would be beneficial to propel traditions.

A Fellow comments that with the dawn of a new Chancellor, a lot can be lost or gained.

Another Fellow amplifies that solutions exist but systemically they can't materialize. The Fellow suggests that the University should pursue a model where students are prioritized, and foster a sense of community. Although solutions are already in the palace, the Fellow contends that it looks better, on paper, to hire someone else to come up with new traditions, and there is no incentive to keep the ones that we have alive.

Another Fellow mentions that going back in time should be pivotal. The Fellow speaks on their experience enrolling in classes as an example to build rapport and connect with professors, because it is not just about the next class, instead it is about your college career. Another instance of passion and love for Cal, that the Fellow mentions, is about a student from Georgina, who for 30 years came to teach a chant to keep the tradition going. The Fellow urges everyone to develop this passion, "all current students can contribute to this institutional solution."

Another Fellow mentions that the digital age is revolutionizing, and is excited to see how this is going to be evolving in the upcoming years and affecting UC Berkeley's traditions.

Another Fellow mentions makes a distinction between losing traditions and positive changes. The Fellow is hopeful for more beautiful future traditions.

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