

# Order of The Golden Bear

διδάσκω

ESTABLISHED 1900

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

**Usual Place, February 4, 2025**

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

- A Fellow invites everyone to the Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland (5000 Piedmont Ave.) for a 2-hour walking tour led by Cal Alumni this Saturday.
  - Another Fellow reminds us that the Mountain View Cemetery is located down the street from Fentons Creamery.
- A Fellow recommends all Fellows to attend the Order Council and encourages student Fellows to share ideas.
- A Fellow states that 2 weeks from today, there will be a Residential Hall Assembly event with a panel from animators of Pixar's Inside Out 2 in Zellerbach Hall.
- A Fellow reminds everyone to sign into our discussion meetings as a record of attendance. They recommended that all Fellows check out the website. The Fellows page can be accessed by emailing the Alumni Secretary. The Order also needs a Scribe to post all meeting notes on the website every Thursday after a discussion.
- A Fellow encourages all Fellows to take a look at the emergency protocols located in the Usual Place and other buildings on campus for emergency safety.
- The Warden encourages that we are in need of a Steward to provide dinner. Reminds that all dinners will be provided for Fellows who sign up in advance and stay for the whole meeting.
- During our next Order Council meeting, we will be discussing the logistics for the 125th Birthday of the Order of the Golden Bear.

## **Items for the good of the university: Life After Undergrad at UC Berkeley**

- *Graduate Student Experience on Campus*
- *Effects of past Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Strikes*
- *Financial Realities for Post Undergraduate Studies (student loan repayments, post undergraduate tuition costs, etc.)*
- *Commencement / Traditions*
- *Alumni Experience*
- *Berkeley Career Center*
- *Handshake (a job search program)*
- *Career Search Resources (ie career fairs, resume workshops, etc.)*
- *Career Readiness*
- *Cal Alumni Association*
- *The Global Reach of a Berkeley Degree*

*The Warden opens the floor for discussion.*

- A Fellow states that they attended UC Berkeley for graduate school and they encourage all Berkeley members to support DSP students as a notetaker and other means. They encourage students to take advantage of resources such as the Berkeley Career Engagement Center.
- A Fellow states that in 1982, while taking a gap year, they held a position that allowed them to prosper in fields of leadership after graduating from UC Berkeley. They encourage all graduates to join the Cal Alumni Association.
- A Fellow poses a question of what is the unwritten promise of a Berkeley education.
- A Fellow answers that the resources and connections can be used for potential graduate programs and paths after graduation.
- A Fellow asks that when students compare the support services in post-grad programs, what is being used and what is needed in support?
  - A Fellow answers that the biggest struggle in looking for jobs through Handshake, career fairs, etc is comparatively difficult when other students are flooded into looking the similar positions with long lines and limited opportunities for students. Handshake has a 50/50 success rate, especially the responsiveness is lacking through online portals.
  - Adding on, the College of Chemistry does not have a career fair. They have been organized by Registered Student Organizations. They wonder if administrators in the College of Chemistry play a role in organizing these opportunities in careers.
- A Fellow shares that education is used for economic mobility. The promise is difficult to achieve as students are expected to work hard to stand out. In the Computer Science field, folks have difficulty distinguishing themselves and making connections. Berkeley offers opportunities to interact with great-minded students and staff while also building resilience for this marketplace.
- A Fellow shares that the world has changed since their graduation from Law School. The greatest benefit has been adaptability. They have seen vast changes since 1968. For example, AI is relevant now in the job market, but it is easy to lose sight of what the career paths will look like decades from now. Cal has received criticism due to career fairs, compared to USC's career pipeline. Whether the opportunity is from campus departments or the Cal Alumni Association, the students are responsible for reaching out to and speaking to alumni, seeking help and advice to discover a program or career path. Looking for people will always bring satisfaction to students navigating the post-graduate experience.
- A Fellow congratulates the newest Fellows. Since graduation in 2023, they are seeking more information in today's job market. They received a position on campus in Alumni Relations and have learned that applying for jobs in the fourth quarter is not good as departments are lowering their budget. They encourage networking, resume building, and making connections. They applied for over 100 jobs, and even though they had references, an interview is not guaranteed. It is important to know that the job market is rough right now, but it is great to use the opportunity to find your passion and needs. The difference between college and the workplace has its own culture shock. They also successfully found a new job! Don't be afraid to ask for help.
- A Fellow presents that professional student organizations in finance or law are selective and competitive, which has presented issues for students with disabilities and underrepresented students. Pre-professional organizations currently have a selective process that doesn't account for all students who would like to access them but can't.

- A Fellow states that the relationship between Alumni is broken. Calls from campus come for money. They shout out the Alumni chapters in varying cities around the United States. They believe there is more that can engage hundreds of thousands of Alumni.
- A Fellow states that currently we have thousands of living alumni who range in scales, matching, and opportunity but students don't know how to ask. Career counseling for recent graduates is available for virtual or in-person 1 on 1 access to counselors. My Berkeley Alumni Portal is accessible through CalNet, where all students, staff, and alumni are in the system. It was launched in December. They can find people and schedule right away, which brings a centralized portal. It is like a LinkedIn for all of UC Berkeley.
- A Fellow shares a mentorship program for Black and Brown students. The mentors that connect with students help their journey and encourage work during their undergraduate years. They share the need for basic needs such as food access, which they found during a video series of real-life testimonies. They share that Alumni of the Berkeley group at the Sundance Film Festival, they have served as volunteers. You can find opportunities in many paths.
- A Fellow shares that first-generation students and backgrounds have a difficulty in surviving rather than taking their time in networking. This leaves their experiences vastly different than peers who had full access to networking. By the time of graduate, they wonder how to support these students.
- A Fellow states that Berkeley students build critical thinking skills. These skills are highlighted in letters of recommendations as students learn from Berkeley more than academic abilities but also the skills of a great leader. They encourage students to think about professional school as they seek long-term careers. They suggest never losing your connection to Cal.
- A Fellow shares that as a young Alumni there is no nostalgia yet but wanting to help comes from a place of privilege. They list departments that have failed or lack access where many have not had connections or received mentorship. They suggest that recent Alumni don't know how to be Alumni and haven't been taught to give back in different ways. Their Alumni chapter back home, they were able to connect but they suggest utilizing the Alumni connection through chapters, especially in cities with not as many Cal Alumni.
- A Fellow suggests to foster family and connection, which causes Alumni to give back due to an established sense of belonging— which Cal does a terrible job in. They suggest that the University must do a better job of galvanizing faculty of connection through everyone, no matter the department or situation.
- A Fellow shares that in their on-campus living situations, they believe that students must understand the Cal experience as programs and ways of interacting. During their student experience at the International House, they held tables from various countries for discussions on political and social conversations. They also stated that ways of supporting students were found in their dorms, co-ops, and other campus housing. They share that students must go out and seek opportunities.
- A Fellow shares things to consider when thinking about Alumni engagement capacity is that recent alumni are doers and self-efficient, especially compared to other campuses. As Alumni, we may also be an opportunity for someone else. Zoom is free and can be used to connect with others in shared communities. They believe that people can be brought together, especially when they lack or need support. For recent Alum, they suggest they get out of the Bay Area. It is an echo chamber. It is not diverse with respect to political views or social programs. Outside of the Bay

Area, you will find a different world. This puts you in a way to influence others. They share that moving out of California can only add to your experiences. They had the opportunity to work in the University for about 50 year and learned in this bureaucracy, which is more complex than anything else. It is overregulated and frustrating. If you were able to say, “I did it well there [at UC Berkeley],” then it would be an asset to be successful anywhere else.

- A Fellow shares that they went to a private school and had support from USC pipeline program that provided mentorship, job opportunities, and lists of connections to her graduating high school class. They were invited to a LinkedIn group event where they found Cal Alumni and connected with other high school students. They suggest the university can accomplish these connections similarly for students who will be navigating post-graduate experiences.
- A Fellow adds on that you cannot spell bureaucracy without UC. At the Cal Alumni Association, typically when asked what does a UC Berkeley alumni look like? You may picture a white man. They have adapted to the reality of what our alumni actually are. The CASE in the Cal Alumni Association shows the contrast between matching jackets from Princeton to meeting the unique needs of Cal Alumni. There are 500,000 living alumni. In the restrictive culture of clubs, there is a relation of networking and job rather than connection and mentorship. Once all Alumni are on MyBerkeley, they intend to market to everyone. They state that the Alumni are excited to talk to students and the students don't have to be scared to reach out. We must have Alumni who represent our students.
- A Fellow shares that as a re-entry, transfer student, they went to all of Golden Bear Orientation. They were encouraged to take rhetoric classes, declared this minor, and received a job offer before classes started. Shaking hands and making connections are important to foster.
- A Fellow shares that traveling to other places is highly encouraged. They went to Yacama, Oregon, and learned so much about the Native culture and made meaningful connections. Through living in adverse environments, you learn and build more opportunities in your living spaces.
- A Fellow is excited about the new platform– MyBerkeley. They believe student life is critical and foundational for positive alumni experience. How can we support marginalized student organizations? There is more we can learn from clubs and student organizations, fraternities, athletics, religiously affiliated organizations, and more. The siloed nature is very dangerous. We must come together and bring into and contribute to spaces like these. They give a shoutout to Women's Basketball and a connection to the Bay Area that is important to visit and jump right back in. They believe that students at Cal can bootstrap themselves or can find it more difficult to seek opportunities when they are secondary to application such as global careers and traveling.
- A Fellow asks for advice in navigating the field of health equity during a political time where DEI is being threatened.
  - A Fellow responds with disparities shown by statistical studies, such that Black women face high rates of mortality and recommends supporting organizations such as Healthy Black Families. Keep hope alive.
- A Fellow encourages not to lose sight of the experience outside of a classroom. Their activities in student organizations helped their progression in professional spaces. No matter what job, students will build skills whether at the library or anything, and the value will help us navigate more complex situations. Our ability to articulate ourselves is very important and balanced equally from Berkeley classrooms and jobs.

- A Fellow shares that in postgraduate opportunities, there are strengths in carrying out our skills. How do we think critically about what we want Berkeley to be? Is it for the elite title or loyalty? The bond is created not only from merch but also the conversations.
- A Fellow shares that Handshake made it easier to apply to positions. This is a jumpstart of recruitment in different fields. It can be mastered by students through Handshake info sessions and learning more about how to use the platform for their benefit. They recommend students listen to info sessions and events that share job opportunities. They believe this is important for students to build their ability and find their path, and positions they like and do not like. They will also gain the language and recommendations to ask questions and have conversations with Alumni.
- A Fellow shares that the students with strong belonging are strong Alumni. In the transfer student experience, their leadership is not recognized. This has made it more difficult, feeling isolated. More must be done for students of different entry points. More can be done to support undergraduates. They meet with recent graduates to talk about their work, family, and other avenues, even suggesting a podcast to support first-generation students. They share the importance of staying connected beyond Berkeley.
- A Fellow shares that the Order is a great way to foster connection, especially when we have been disconnected for years. They share that the room is a constant for the Fellowship. They are reminded of a Fellow who created a podcast speaking of UC Berkeley experiences.
- A Fellow shares that belonging is vital. After graduation, they didn't know if they would return, but now, as a faculty member, they are dedicated to helping students have better experiences. Your major does not define you. They worry about the transactional ways, instead of celebrating the beauty of community with one another. It is centered around how you want to live your life and prioritize self-care during difficult times.

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