

Order of The Golden Bear

ΕΙΣΑΓΩΓΗ

ESTABLISHED 1900

The meeting was convened at 6:00pm.

Usual Place, March 4, 2025

Items for the good of The Order:

- A Fellow announced that a strong contributing Fellow had passed this past week.
- A Fellow invites everyone to the Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland (5000 Piedmont Ave.) for a two-hour walking tour led by Cal Alumni on Saturday, March 8th, at 10 AM. Meet at the cemetery front desk at the entrance by the fountain.
- A Fellow shares that Berkeley Journalism came together at the Sundance Film Festival in January with films by Cal members, including The Dating Game and MiddleTown.
- A Fellow shares that the Order's 125th Birthday celebration is fully booked and registrations are closed. The Fellow adds that it is customary and courteous for any registered Fellow who ultimately cannot attend to contact the person managing registrations as soon as possible so that others may join in.
- The Warden announces a new Steward. Reminder that all dinners will be provided for Fellows who sign up in advance and stay for the meeting. She encourages all Fellows to attend Order Council every other Tuesday.
- The previously announced proposed new bylaw was discussed at length and in depth, voted on, and passed.
- A Fellow asked if a Fellow could attend a meeting and speak for another Fellow in their stead. The Warden clarified that this is never allowed.

Items for the good of the university: Recreational Student Activities

- Party Life On and Off Campus
- Campus Substance Use
- Club Changes and Engagement
- Blue Heart Initiative/Club Accessibility
- Student Well-Being
- Berkeley Student Food Collective & Food Insecurity/Access
- Alternative Study/Hangout Spaces
- Fitness & Wellness at RSF, Intermurals
- Greek Life and its Decline in Membership

The Warden opens the floor for discussion.

- A Fellow expressed interest in learning more about substance use in Greek life and residential communities such as co-operative housing, International House, and residential dorms to ensure better student living conditions. Historically, they share their experience as a student in the co-ops who have experienced hall closures. They ask if there is a way to learn more about student behavior directly from the co-ops and the UCPD public reports. They also ask those in the co-ops or UCPD to share their experiences with the Order.
- A Fellow voices that partying on and off campus, organized by students, is common but needs more safety precautions. They share that more discussion of off-campus resources, such as how to be safe in Downtown Berkeley or San Francisco, would be necessary in their students' introduction to campus. Currently, there are no safeguards for supporting students in these areas.

- They recommend a semester or annual resource to be shared on Cal Central and signed by students to ensure all students have access to safe resources. In these resources, it would be key to share how to use or access Narcan and other emergency preparedness information for substance use. They believe sharing information in various ways will reach more students than another Vice Provost email chain.
- A Fellow shares that in her sorority, she had mandatory drug/alcohol training at least to inform their active members. She recommended similar training for the co-ops to ensure a baseline understanding of what to do in an emergency. A bureaucracy is in place that analyzes its student members and shares presentations on these issues as a needs-based assessment.
- Another Fellow adds that in their sorority recruitment season, they have acknowledged students unaware of Greek life. As an academic institution, they have been promoting their sorority as a strong alumni network with mentors in all professional fields, including medicine, law, science, and more, who are ready to speak to undergraduate students. They share that as students of different backgrounds, they have seen the benefits of belonging to an organization with a strong alumni network.
- A Fellow shares that as a resident on Piedmont Ave, they witnessed an alarming number of fire trucks. They share their first-hand experience of a lack of student safety, where one fraternity member was seen falling from the second floor of their building during a day-drinking event. What can students or the university do to create a safer experience for all students?
- Another Fellow asked if there were any Narcan training sessions. They share that they have also seen the consequences of not having life-saving medication or procedures to support students. Is there enough access to training? How can we promote safety without promoting drug use?
- A Fellow discusses their experience on the mobile crisis team, where they conduct presentations and multiple trainings for students. They recall having Narcan available in the residential dorms. They emphasize the importance of clear resources and direct pathways to accessing them. - Another Fellow follows up with the Supportal (Support Portal,) which can be accessed online and presents clear resources for those struggling with alcohol and drugs.
 - A Fellow shares that the student-run organization End Overdose has many presentations in Greek Life and is currently working to expand its access to students.
- A Fellow states that students establish comfort and belonging in safe areas by finding community. Regarding substance use and abuse, they learned life-saving procedures from upperclassmen who shared those resources. They want to see more students bring these resources into their clubs.
- A Fellow expresses their experience as a First Responder. They have an app to provide further step-by-step instructions for emergency help. They declare a need for a similar app for students.
- A Fellow shares that recreational sports are very powerful for all students. Many facilities across campus, such as Strawberry Canyon, were student-funded, and students were allowed to put more input into their facilities. Over the years, the recreational support has now gone to Cal Athletics without student input, including Cal Spirit, which impacts the management of their affairs. As students have high turnover, resources are not always obtained, and they can fall responsible for finding their own way. The RSF is the #1 used facility, more than any library. The campus should assign more obligations or responsibilities to an administrator to ensure that advocacy for students and their programs are not lost. They recommend that students utilize the ASUC Art Studio as one of the best mental health facilities.
- A Fellow mentions that they have not seen enough Narcan. They had an incident where it was needed in the public near campus and pushed its urgency in campus facilities. Graduate students at the Goldman School of Public Policy have come together on their initiative to have Narcan when needed.
- A Fellow promotes University Health Services UHS), which has free health promotion and drug preparedness certifications. There is a lack of availability in recreational sports, such as having a lane in a pool with many students having gym memberships outside of campus. The facilities that are free for all students, cost-wise, may not be available for all students. How can we address this?
- A Fellow shares the RSF certification for lifeguarding, CPR, drug prevention, health promotion, and emergency safety. They read a DailyCal article that Bears Lair is closing but the Berkeley Student Food Collective is working to utilize this space to support food availability to students. -

- The Student Union meeting on Zoom is this Thursday at 4 pm to discuss different proposals, such as BSFC. It is an organization for students by students and students can use EBT there as well.
- A Fellow shares that the lack of resources and funding creates problems. It also makes it difficult to retain members when extra costs hinder access to uniforms or merch. There are limited spaces for all organizations, such as Cal Band and other student organizations. Oski is using the same outfit and should have newer outfits. They lack transportation to access certain areas of campus. There has been experience of our Oski or rally com members experiencing heat strokes, lack of water, and as a result falling ill with vomit and nausea.
- A Fellow shares the importance of advocacy. RSF is paid for by students and is crucial for mental and physical health. Now, it has become challenging to navigate. They wouldn't be surprised if it is closed for renovation in the upcoming years. We need strong advocacy to ensure it remains for all students.
 - They add that they witnessed 8 ambulances taking students in one single night. They are unsure if they are freshmen or seniors, but more advocacy is needed to support these students. Greek life is the only organization with a lifelong membership. Are there other groups on campus that have organized places for Alumni to be a part of the undergraduate experience?
- A Fellow shares that all construction plans are included in the Berkeley master plan, which plans to update Cesar Chavez, replace Evans with the academic center, and rebuild the RSF. The plan is available online.
 - A Fellow follow-up noted that during the MLK and Cesar Chavez renovations, the University eliminated the Bear Lair as a student-centered place. The Bear Lair faces difficulty as the people in Zellerbach do not want to hear noisy students next door. Each business has failed for years. It is up to the campus to make Bears Lair a student-focused space.
 - For example, in management changes in Cal Athletics, they placed the responsibility of student groups under the Marketing department, which has done a disservice to all Cal Spirit groups. Cal Athletics will continue to underservice the Cal Band and other groups if we allow them to do so. It is up to students to ensure we do not put up with it anymore.
- A Fellow shares that being a part of Cal Spirit means being expected to be there and receiving no benefits. One gameday without Cal Spirit will cause it to fall apart.
 - Another Fellow states that in speaking to the Bearettes, they contacted Marketing to perform during Black History Month. They have not done any performances this year and were not allowed to perform at a basketball game. The new hype man is a paid employee in Cal Athletics' Marketing department who is determined to be the Cal Hype Man. As a Mic Man, employing an external mic man is disheartening. They were told the Cal Hype Man would not share cheers, but he did, and even misquoted them. Today, he had an entire biography video where it initially stated in the caption and was advertised as the "man behind the mic," which stings for the Mic Men who have not been highlighted or appreciated by Cal Athletics. All of Cal Spirit feels underappreciated. They have received cut funds for away games without clear transparency. Cal Athletic Marketing is underfunded and has poor communication.

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