

**Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting
October 4, 2011, 4:00 – 5:30 PM BHS room C213
Minutes**

In Attendance

Who	Role	E-mail address
Matt Carton	ACAC Chair, Teacher Coordinator, AC House Leader	mattcarton@berkeley.net
Ben Sanoff	Teacher rep, AC House Leader	bsanoff@berkeley.net
Alex Angell	Teacher rep, Liaison to School Site Council	alexangell@berkeley.net
Angela Dean	Teacher rep, Liaison to AC Professional Development	angeladean@berkeley.net
Philippe Henri	Teacher rep	phenri@berkeley.net
Lawrence Grown	Parent Coordinator	lawrence@metrolighting.com
Barbara Anscher	Parent rep, Student Support	barbaraanscher@yahoo.com
Mary Engle	Parent rep, Student Leadership, Teacher Liaison	maryengle@verizon.net
Susanna Moore	Parent rep	susannamoore@gmail.com
Francesca Verdier	Parent rep, Secretary	francesca.verdier@gmail.com
Lenore Goldman	Parent alternate: Organizational Development	goldmanl@earthlink.net
Reyna Fa-Kaji	Student rep	reyfakaji@gmail.com
Hilary Hoynes	AC Parent Leadership Committee, Fundraising	hwhoynes@ucdavis.edu
Randi Boorstein	AC Parent Leadership Committee, Liaison to Berkeley High School Development Group	randiboorstein@gmail.com
Enid Camps	Guest - parent	enidcamps@comcast.net
Denise Hingle	Guest - parent	dhingle@mindspring.com

Best day/time for monthly ACAC meeting

Francesca will conduct a doodle poll to choose between:

- Fridays at 7:30 AM

- Wednesdays at 4 PM
- Thursdays at 4 PM

Communications

The ACAC agenda needs to be established several days before the meeting and announced on both the BHS etree and the AC etree at least two days before the meeting. These announcements should start with the boilerplate: "The Academic Choice Advisory Council, or ACAC, is a group of teachers, parents, students, and administrators who meet once a month to discuss the present and future of Academic Choice."

To post a message to the BHS etree, send to: bhs@lmi.net. For the AC etree send to Rebecca Herman and Lawrence Grown: mcherman@pacbell.net and lawrence@metrolighting.com.

The AC website is <http://www.bhsacademicchoice.com/>. Its webmaster is Craig Harper whom you can contact at bhsacweb@gmail.com. The next ACAC meeting will have the AC website on the agenda.

Peggy Scott (plscott@stanfordalumni.org) has set up the ACAC-BHS group at Yahoo! Groups for us to use. To post a message send an email to ACAC-BHS@yahoogroups.com.

ACAC Bylaws

The ACAC bylaws are a subset of the AC bylaws, which are available on the AC website.

Tutoring help for English Teachers

Barabara Anscher passed out a document outlining 3 possibilities for English tutors: Writer Coach Connection, Berkeley School Volunteers, UC Readers. Susanna Moore and Alex Angell volunteered to discuss this more with the goal of having enough information to make a decision on whether or not to propose funding English tutors at the next ACAC meeting.

Graphing Calculators

Not all students can afford to buy a graphing calculator, which is needed for math courses at the sophomore and higher levels. We would like to decide whether to fund these at the next ACAC meeting. It would also be good to have a policy about lending them out like textbooks (with signed contracts) or keeping them in the classroom like laptops. Angela Dean has volunteered to collect data on calculator needs.

AC Resource Coordinator

Matt Carton reported that he can already see results from the work done by Jesse Luxford, the AC Resource Coordinator, and this was money well spent. She runs a 5th period support class for freshmen who need extra help as well as a 7th period class. Next steps are to get students getting Ds and Fs linked to her, as well as "bubble students" (those at risk of not doing quite well enough for college applications).

Budget

Olga Volodina is out of town for a month, and was not there to present the budget. She or Randi Boorstein (who volunteered to help with this task) should present it at the next ACAC meeting.

AC Professional Development

This group has been working with EL (English Learners) coach Heather Tugwell, who will be conducting workshops for teachers. The goal is to develop strategies for improving all students' academic language skills in each content area. The focus is to get freshmen and sophomores prepared to take AP classes. The group is compiling data on success rates in AP classes by different communities of students.

Use of BPEF Money

Ben Sanoff is applying for a grant from the Berkeley Public Education Foundation (BPEF) to hire 2 tutors who would help sophomores in World History develop AP skills – specifically to help those who should be capable of taking an AP class but who left to their own devices probably wouldn't. The goal is to increase the number of students taking at least one AP class. Also to that end, the history department is working to make sure that the sophomore history curriculum is aligned with subject matter on the AP World History AP exam taken at the end of sophomore year.

Dates for Future AC Events

Matt Carton will survey the core teachers for 9th/10th grade potlucks in late October. The ideal is to have separate potlucks for each core teacher grouping, but if not enough teachers can attend there could simply be separate 9th and 10th grade potlucks.

The dates for the Fall and Spring AC General Meetings were set for Wednesday, November 16 and Wednesday, May 23, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the BHS library. Matt Carton will reserve the times.

AC Counselor Loads

Counselors for the small schools, AC and BIHS are shared, with a caseload of about 500 students per counselor across BHS. Although this is still high, AC no longer has a higher caseload than other small schools.

Master Schedule and Coring

This has improved over last year but further improvements could be made. Next year Matt Carton will try to ensure that both core periods are matched and that the core teachers have the same development period. Currently core teachers can communicate during their prep periods.

What ACAC Goals do we have for this year?

We did not have time to brainstorm this item; postponed to next meeting.