

**Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting  
March 1, 2013, 7:30 – 8:35 AM BHS room C213**

**In Attendance:**

<b>Who</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>E-mail address</b>
<b>Ben Sanoff</b>	Teacher rep, AC House Leader	bensanoff@berkeley.net
<b>Tim Zolezzi</b>	AC Teacher, History	timothyzolezzi@berkeley.net
<b>Vernon Walton</b>	AC Vice Principal	vernonwalton@berkeley.net
<b>Barbara Anscher</b>	Parent rep, Student Support	barbaraanscher@gmail.com
<b>Francesca Verdier</b>	Parent rep, Secretary	francesca.verdier@gmail.com
<b>Olga Volodina</b>	Parent rep, Treasurer	olga-volodina@sbcglobal.net
<b>Cooper Walton</b>	Student rep	minicooper23@gmail.com
<b>Randi Boorstein</b>	AC Parent , Liaison to Berkeley High School Development Group	randiboorstein@gmail.com
<b>Peter Geraghty</b>	AC parent	peterjgeraghty@gmail.com
<b>Heather Loucks</b>	AC parent	
<b>John Lavine</b>	AC parent, BSEP liaison	johnclavine@gmail.com
<b>Sarah San Martin</b>	AC parent	ssanmartin@gmail.com

**AC Commencement Planning**

**Action:** Francesca will take care of ordering sashes and pins by early May. So far only one senior parent has responded to request for planning help. Ben Sanoff said he would spread the word for student and parent volunteers via his senior classes, and will solicit teacher volunteers as well. Cooper Walton reported that students don't have a strong preference for a picnic-like or auditorium-like event.

If there are not enough volunteers there will not be an AC commencement. There will be sashes in either case.

**AP Coordinator and AP Government**

Ben Sanoff announced that next year all seniors will be required to take AP government, a semester long class. The reasons behind this decision are that there are few differences in the curricula the AP and non AP government classes and the AP government test is more fact based and less essay based than other AP tests. This will not dilute the content of AP government but will broaden access to an AP class. This year only 11% of AP government students are African American or Latino compared with 58% for the non AP government class.

The new AP Coordinator 0.6 FTE position will provide support to students in this class. First, that person will identify students with lower skills who need help – they will get after school help from the class teachers. Second, that person will coordinate drop-in after school tutoring from UC students for all AP gov students. The UC students will attend the classes as well.

Ben is quite confident that funding will be found for this new AP Coordinator position – 0.4-0.5 FTE from general BHS funding, and perhaps 0.1-0.2 FTE from ACAC.

The AP gov class is one semester; the other semester students take either AP economics or regular economics – they will not have to take AP the second semester.

This program will be announced to juniors the week of March 4 in their US history classes.

#### Discussion:

- Will students be required to take the AP gov test? In theory, yes, though there probably won't be 100% compliance. The AP Coordinator should make sure that all students register for the AP gov test, which costs \$100. ACAC might be asked to provide funds for students in need (but who don't qualify for free/reduced lunches for whom there is a reduced fee).
- AC should consider not doing AP – it just gives money to the testing industry. The teachers thought that though the AP tests aren't perfect they do provide academic advantages and the tests hold both teachers and students accountable. Cooper Walton concurred, saying you learn a lot preparing for these tests. Sample tests let you know what you are preparing for, and there is a lot of class support in the weeks before the tests to prepare.
- Money for the drop-in tutoring part could come from Wyn Skeels' tutoring program, funded by the development group. Ben Sannoff will send Randi Boorstein more details to help her procure the money.
- Some kids are scared to fail, and don't want to take AP for that reason. Please provide reassurance to kids that the support will be there to help them succeed. Perhaps poll kids about their fears.
- Randi pointed out that having mixed IB test takers and non test takers in the same IBHS classes has worked well for both sets of students
- How to get students to attend the drop-in support sessions? If they come to most they will get a grade boost, plus food will be provided. This is modeled after the US History AP Scholars program which has been successful in supporting US History students.
- There will be practice tests with opportunities for students who get wrong answers to explain why they were wrong and why the correct answers are right – and thus boost their grades.

### **Paying AC Teachers from ACAC Funds**

Teachers cannot be paid directly by AC but must be paid by BUSD. Vernon Walton can facilitate this when ACAC approves funding teachers for after school work.

### **AC Spring Meeting**

Ben Sanoff would like the spring meeting to be held earlier this year in order to cover the new AP gov requirement. Action: Vernon Walton will see if the library is available on April 18 for this. Ben will work with teachers to create an agenda, which will be reviewed at the next ACAC meeting.

### **Next ACAC Meeting**

Friday April 12, 2013, 7:30 – 8:35 a.m. in BHS room C213.

### **Approval of February 2013 ACAC Minutes**

Ben Sanoff approved the February 2013 ACAC minutes.