

Academic Choice Spring Meeting
April 17, 2013, 7:00 – 8:00 pm BHS library

Meeting Notes

The Academic Choice Team held its spring general meeting on April 12, 2103. Sixteen AC parents and teachers were present; 12 parents signed the roster. The quorum of 30 needed for voting was not met.

Transition in AC Leadership

Ben Sanoff, AC Lead Teacher and History/Economics teacher, announced that the two lead teachers for the 2013-2014 school year will be Matt Laurel and Tim Zolezzi.

AP Government for All Seniors in 2013-2014

Ben Sanoff reported that all seniors are required by California to take a government class one semester and an economics class one semester. In 2013/2014 all seniors will take AP Government; they will choose between regular and AP Economics. It has been a long term Academic Choice goal to have all AC students take a least one AP class – research has shown that taking even one AP class is beneficial for college success.

The California standards for the government class are nearly identical to the AP Government curriculum – so the content of these two classes are almost the same. This makes AP Government an ideal choice for an AP class taken by all students. The AC teachers are very excited about this change and have put in place a support structure to help students succeed. This is described on the AC website at <http://berkeleyschools.net/ac/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/instructionalstrategies.pdf>.

Question: There had been talk about requiring AP Literature in Junior year – what is the status?

Answer: This is still being discussed.

Question: Will the after school tutoring program support AP Gov?

Answer: We will work with Wyn Skeels, who runs the tutoring program. In addition, we would like tutoring targeted to the class and are working to put this in place.

Question: Is AP macro economics a semester-long class? What are the options for economics classes?

Answer: Yes, all economics class last one semester. There are three options:

1. AP macro economics – the level of math needed for this class is Algebra 2.
2. Economics – this is an introduction to both micro and macro economics

3. African American Economics – economics as experiences through the African American experience

Question: Are any of the other small schools requiring an AP class?

Answer: BIHS is already doing this: IB English and IB history are required in the junior and senior year.

General Questions and Answers

Question: Can you say more about Alex Angell's leave?

Answer: This is a personnel matter (which has since been resolved). Meanwhile, Ms. Campbell is the substitute teacher. Questions can be referred to BUSD Human resources - Delia Ruiz, deliaruiz@berkeley.net.

Question: What are the repercussions of Jessie Luxford being funded at only a .2 FTE level by BSEP?

Answer: We are trying to figure out how to construct her student support program around this reduction.

Vote for ACAC Parent Representatives

Barbara Anscher, Jeremy Thorner, Francesca Verdier, and Olga Volodina ran for the 2013-2014 AC Advisory Committee parent positions. Those present endorsed them unanimously, but we did not have the quorum for an official vote.

Seeking Parent Volunteers

ACAC is seeking parent volunteers to coordinate the incoming families picnic, held at the end of the summer – usually just before the start of the school year.