

**Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting
September 6, 2013, 7:30 – 8:35 AM BHS room C317
Minutes**

In Attendance:

Who	Role	E-mail address
Tim Zolezzi	ACAC Chair and AC Lead Teacher	timothyzolezzi@berkeley.net
Ben Sanoff	AC Teacher Coordinator	bensanoff@berkeley.net
Vernon Walton	AC Vice Principal	vernonwalton@berkeley.net
Jessie Luxford	AC Support Coordinator	jessieluxford@berkeley.net
Erica Gratton	AC Teaching Assistant	gratton.eric@gmail.com
Barbara Anscher	Parent rep, Student Support	barbaraanscher@gmail.com
Jeremy Thorner	Parent rep	jthorner@berkeley.edu
Francesca Verdier	Parent rep, Secretary	francesca.verdier@gmail.com
Olga Volodina	Parent rep, Treasurer	olga-volodina@sbcglobal.net
Randi Boorstein	AC parent , Liaison to Berkeley High School Development Group	randiboorstein@gmail.com
Evelyn Enciso	AC Student	evey2396@gmail.com
Sophia Jimenez	AC Student	jimenez.sophie5@gmail.com
James Stoner	AC Student	jamesstoner@students.berkeley.net
Greg Brock	AC parent	brock_gregory@hotmail.com
Peter Geraghty	AC parent	
Susan Johnson	AC parent	susana3j@sonic.net
Rene Kvideehl	AC parent	
Heather Loucks	AC parent	
Ayumi Nagase	AC parent	nagaseayumi@berkeley.edu
Johanna Reneke	AC parent	j.reneke@gmail.com
Jena Resner	AC parent	jenaresner@yahoo.com
Laurent Roffe	AC parent	laroffee@yahoo.com
Mark Simmons	AC parent	
Ti Tyler	AC parent	
Burr Tyler	AC parent	burr@ecocraft.com
Cherry VanMeurs	AC parent	
Jed Waldmon	AC parent	jedwaldmon@gmail.com

AC 9th Grade Picnic Update

Ben Sanoff is coordinating the 9th grade picnic – to be held Tuesday, September 17, from 4 to 7 PM. While the focus will be 9th grade parents, students and teachers, the whole AC community is invited. It will be a potluck supplemented by pizza. If you can volunteer to sit at a table to answer questions and do fundraising please let Ben know.

Some parent/student feedback:

- The time is bad for kids with sports and parents with jobs. Maybe on a weekend. We decided to move the close from 6 PM to 7 PM, but will stick with Tuesday this year to encourage teacher turnout.
- Maybe two picnics – one during the week for 9th graders and one on the weekend for the whole community? Will consider for next year.

English Classroom Support

Barbara Anscher would like to coordinate student writing support for English classes. Last year ACAC had a budget approved for Writer Coach Connection for the whole 9th grade, but WCC said they couldn't handle that many students. Should we contact WCC again? Consider UC readers? Tim Zolezzi to contact Matt Laurel about what is needed. Randi Boorstein said money might be available from the development group for this – apply by the 15th of the month.

AC Fall Meeting

We should target October for the Fall Meeting, and preferably a Tuesday. Will be from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Vernon Walton will check when the library is available and report back. Ideas for topics:

- College Career Center
- Tutorial services
- What the various BHS committees do and how to get involved
- Course progressions
- AP Gov
- How Common Core is affecting / will affect courses
- Important to have Math and Science teachers
- Let parents know why AC is a great choice for their students
- Students present accomplishments they are proud of
- Student performances
- Emphasize AC electives – it's the AC Identity

Ben Sanoff will circulate a draft agenda via the etrees and get feedback.

ACAC Budget

Olga Volodina presented the ACAC budget; see the budget attachment below. Jessie Luxford, who as AC Academic Development Coordinator is partly funded by ACAC, explained her job. Last year she supported 30 at risk freshmen – those with multiple Ds or Fs. She taught them academic skills, provided homework help, and got them thinking about college. She monitored their progress and checked in with their teachers and parents. This year monetary support from BSEP (the Berkeley Schools Excellence Program – the parcel tax that provides additional money to the Berkeley schools) was cut in half, so she will only be able to support 15 students. It is still being decided whether these will be 9th or 10th graders. Parent Peter Geraghty said he had volunteered in Jessie’s classes, was very impressed, and endorsed her work.

One parent noted that the availability of this program should be more broadly advertised to parents.

The AC graduation is another “big ticket” item on the ACAC budget. Ben Sanoff reported that the barbeque format worked well for the students – there was good turnout. **Action:** Ben Sanoff to add 2014 AC graduation to an upcoming ACAC agenda.

To support ACAC fund requests we need to more actively engage in fundraising – use meetings as opportunities, and solicit via the etrees. Action: Jeremy Thorner will compose a fund raising letter, explaining how parent donations are used effectively.

Requests for Funding

Benn Sanoff presented a set of funding requests:

- \$100 for pizza at the 9th grade picnic – approved unanimously.
- \$900 for two LCD projectors – Randi Boorstein said that the development group would almost certainly fund this, so Ben will send it to them instead.
- \$900 for AP Government Review Books for the AP Government scholars (those students at risk who will receive extra help). Ben will send this request to the development group as well.
- \$3,000 for three AP Study Group Leaders, who will provide drop in support for 4 of the humanities AP classes (AP gov is already covered so doesn’t need this) - approved unanimously. This will be run as a pilot prior to applying for grant support from UC Berkeley.
- \$300 for student snacks for the AP Government scholars program - approved unanimously.
- \$5,280 to pay for Erica Gratton as AC Academic Development teaching assistant. Erica was a volunteer in this position last year. She served as a bridge between Jessie Luxford’s students and their teachers, provided individual tutoring, and provided mentoring in the skills needed to be successful at BHS as well as at college and life. She advocated for students and taught them how to advocate for themselves. Approved unanimously.

Next ACAC Meeting

Friday October 4, 2013, 7:30 – 8:35 a.m. in BHS room C317.

Attachment: ACAC Budget as of September 2013

ACADEMIC CHOICE
Statement of Activities
September 3, 2013

	<i>Budget for 2013-14</i>	2013-14 YTD	2012-13 YTD	2011-2012 Actual	2010-2011 Actual
Opening Balance	62,670.77	62,670.77	62,381.13	42,119.69	39,506.26
Donations					
Individual & Business Contributions	40,000.00	2,150.00	30,200.04	39,467.95	29,846.99
AC commencement: sashes				370.00	1,082.00
contributions				881.35	2,330.00
BHS DG Grants/Reader's Project			300.00	3,728.10	
PayPal fees		(11.30)	(13.80)	(114.35)	(55.94)
Designated funds			1,535.21		
Total donations	40,000.00	2,138.70	32,021.45	44,333.05	33,203.05
Expenses Program:					
Classroom Support/Tutoring/	(3,000.00)		(1,218.90)	(446.43)	(753.41)
Readers project/AP history	(6,000.00)		(6,163.50)	(7,830.00)	(1,815.00)
AP History grading	(2,000.00)			(1,088.25)	
AP language tutoring			(2,797.50)	(830.00)	
AP US History			(3,500.00)	(625.00)	
AC Bridge Support/Students at Risk					
Social Living	(500.00)				
Staff Development	(2,000.00)		(1,325.00)		(1,000.00)
Special Projects/Chromebook cart				(4,061.63)	
Graphing Calculators/Computers				(3,000.27)	
Contribution for AC AP coordinator	(20,000.00)				
Contribution for Support&Resource coordinator	(10,000.00)		(10,000.00)		(20,000.00)
Supporting services:					
AC Administration	(1,000.00)		(885.02)	(845.96)	(1,679.24)
Website management for AC			0.00	(1,400.00)	(210.85)
AC Events	(500.00)		0.00		(445.84)
Teacher Appreciation	(500.00)		0.00	(500.00)	(445.28)
AC Commencement	(6,000.00)		(5,841.89)	(3,444.07)	(3,740.00)
Total expenses	(51,500.00)	0.00	(31,731.81)	(24,071.61)	(30,089.62)
<i>Ratio of program expenses to total expenses</i>	84.47%		78.80%	65.56%	85%
Ending Balance	51,170.77	64,809.47	62,670.77	62,381.13	42,119.69