

## 8/29/14 Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting

August 29, 2014, 7:30-8:35 AM BHS room C317

### Minutes

#### In Attendance:

Who	Role	E-mail address
Tim Zolezzi	AC Chair and AC Lead History Teacher	timothyzolezzi@berkeley.net
Matt Laurel	AC Lead English Teacher	matthewlaurel@berkeley.net
David Borrelli	AP Coordinator	davidborrelli@berkeley.net
Alex Angell	AC History Teacher and AC Parent	alexangell@berkeley.net
Daniel Roose	AC Vice Principal	danielnube@berkeley.net
Finn Collom	ACAC Student Representative	finncollom@students.berkeley.net
Hannalina Kalonji	ACAC Student Representative	hannalinakalonji@students.berkeley.net
Lorena Gomez	AC Parent	Lgomez@itesm.mx
Richard Isaac	AC Parent	mrisaac.sfcc@gmail.org
Juan C. Lavariega	AC Parent	jclavariega@gmail.com
Suzanne Marr	AC Parent	n/a
Pilly O'Donnell	AC Parent	pillyodonnell@earthlink.net
Lisa Pious	AC Parent	elpious@gmail.com
Rakhi Rao	ACAC Treasurer	rakhiprao@gmail.com
Johanna Reneke	ACAC Parent Rep at Large	j.reneke@gmail.com
Laurie Stevens	AC Parent	laurie1968@aol.com
Donna Storey	ACAC Secretary	donnageorgestorey@gmail.com
Charis Takaro	AC Parent	charistakaro@yahoo.com

Jeremy Thomer	ACAC Student Support Coordinator	jthorner@berkeley.edu
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## Public Comments: History of Academic Choice

Alex Angell spoke about the background of Academic Choice as a movement of concerned members of the community to emphasize college preparation.

### AP Coordinator Report on UC Berkeley Chancellor’s Grant and Request for Funding for AP Scholar Program

David Borrelli, the new AC AP Coordinator for 2014-2015, reported on the changes in AP enrollment and the need for extra financial support given the new requirement for all AC juniors to take at least one AP course.

At the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year there were 9 sections of AP Language and Composition compared to 5-6 sections in previous years. AP US History grew by one section.

Although Berkeley High requested a \$40,000 Chancellor’s Grant from UC Berkeley, they were awarded \$25,000. Mr. Borrelli asked ACAC for funds to hire and train three essay readers for the 9 sections at approximately \$1500 per reader per year. This would enable teachers to assign one essay a week to be graded according to AP test standards. The current AP Language and Literature staff would be able to train the graders. Extra support would also avoid student dropout from AP classes.

English teacher Matt Laurel added that with the higher enrollment in AP classes, we should expect a broader range of AP scores due to the desegregation of AP classes. He stated that the curriculum will not be changed and all students will be challenged.

A vote on giving funds to the program was proposed, but several new parents asked for clarification on the current budget and procedure for voting on expenditures. Alex Angell proposed that we have a provisional vote to get the process started. The proposal was unanimously approved.

**Action:** David Borrelli will present an update at the next ACAC meeting.

### AC Representative to the Berkeley High Development Group

Rakhi Rao, AC Treasurer, will also serve as the ACAC representative to the Berkeley High Development Group.

## **AC E-tree Coordinator**

There was a brief discussion on whether or not we will continue the AC e-tree or rely on the general Berkeley High e-tree for announcements.

**Action:** We will discuss this further at the meeting on October 3.

## **Report on AC Welcome Back Picnic on August 23, 2014**

Picnic coordinator Jeremy Thorner reported that the event was well attended, with better turnout than last year when the picnic was held after school had started. However this year the BHS principal did not attend and Jeremy felt a semi-formal presentation by Berkeley High leadership would have strengthened the event. A new parent in attendance seconded the desirability of official administrative involvement.

**Action:** Suggested improvements for next year include making sure that plates are provided, sending picnic information in the AC fundraiser letter, a phone-blast invitation from the AC vice principal, and inviting the principal to attend to make a brief presentation.

## **Update on Math Tutoring**

Donna Storey gave an update on the effort to strengthen the structure of the honors math tutoring requirement. Honors students were informed that the hours would be reduced this year but with no further details. The current status will be taken up at the next ACAC meeting.

## **New Parent Questions**

Tim Zolezzi invited the new parents in attendance to talk about what brought them to the meeting and to ask any questions.

One parent asked about tutorials for freshmen after school. Mr. Zolezzi mentioned that Wyn Skeels, Academic Support Coordinator, whose office is near the library (room D221), has an after-school tutoring program. Also every teacher's classroom will post a blue sheet with a list of teacher tutors for every subject. Tutoring happens five days a week in the teachers' classrooms.

One parent asked about the structure of the ACAC. Mr. Zolezzi replied that there is no president, but the council includes a parent secretary, parent treasurer, parent student support coordinator, two teacher leads, the AC vice principal, two student representatives, and possibly other parent positions that are not yet filled. For a vote, the ACAC needs a quorum of

parents, teachers, and administrators.

One parent asked for more information on what an AP class is. Mr. Zolezzi replied that AP classes have a set curriculum across the country at the same level as a college class.

### **Public Comment: Improving a-g Completion Rate at Berkeley High**

Mr. Isaac Richard, a freshman parent who runs the San Francisco College Center, brought to our attention the fact that Berkeley High's student completion rate of a-g course requirements necessary to apply to a California state college or university is 50%. He believes that we need to focus on improving this rate as well as improving the connection between the school district and the community with the goal of fostering the success of all students for the benefit of the entire community.

**Action:** Mr. Richard was invited to return to ACAC meetings to discuss specific strategies towards this goal.

### **AC Fall General Meeting**

The date of the annual fall meeting in the library will be decided at the next ACAC meeting.

### **Next ACAC Meeting**

Friday October 3, 2014, 7:30-8:35 a.m. in BHS room C317.