

10/8/14 Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting

October 8, 2014, 7:30-8:35 AM BHS Conference Room B

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
Jessie Luxford	AC Academic Support	jessieluxford@berkeley.net
Daniel Roose	AC Vice Principal	danielnube@berkeley.net
Andy Waranoff	Associate Athletic Director	andywaranoff@berkeley.net
Hannalina Kalonji	ACAC Student Representative	hannalinakalonji@students.berkeley.net
Rakhi Rao	ACAC Treasurer	rakhiprao@gmail.com
Johanna Reneke	ACAC Parent Rep at Large	j.reneke@gmail.com
Donna Storey	ACAC Secretary	donnageorgestorey@gmail.com
Jeremy Thorner	ACAC Student Support Coordinator	jthorner@berkeley.edu

Public Comments:

There were no public comments at this meeting.

AC E-tree Coordinator

Johanna Reneke offered to ask Sam Arriola, who has taken over the AC website, to take on administrative duties for the AC e-tree. Sam agreed to do so later that day.

Hannalina Kalonji asked if students would be able to contribute informational content and the teachers provisionally agreed with teacher supervision of the content.

Action: We will continue to maintain the AC e-tree for AC specific mailings.

AC Fall Information Night in October

Daniel Roose suggested that we cancel the AC general meetings because some parents reported that it was not necessary to attend these meetings a second time and teachers had to stay late to answer parents' individual questions, which is not the purpose of the meeting. VP Roose suggested that the meeting be replaced with an AC information packet given out at future Back-to-School Nights (which has already happened for the current year). Other learning communities had potlucks on Back-to-School Night and AC might consider that. All of the AC parents in attendance felt that the fall informational meeting was helpful to parents of freshmen and that AC is too large for a potluck and few parents could make it to school before the Back-to-School Night began. Donna Storey asked how we would elect ACAC parent representatives if the general meetings were no longer held. Jeremy Thorner said that previous AC Welcome Back Picnics had had an informational element, but this year there was none.

The teachers and VP Roose agreed to have a fall meeting this year, but teachers would be dismissed at 8pm and there would be no individual discussion period with teachers after the formal presentations.

Action: The original date chosen for the Fall Information Night was October 23 but this conflicted with the Berkeley High Development Group Cheeseboard Fundraiser, so it was rescheduled for Wednesday, October 22 from 7-8pm in the Library.

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

David Borrelli, the AC AP Coordinator for 2014-2015, followed up on the discussion at the August 29 meeting for academic support for AC juniors who are now required to take at least one AP course. The enrollment in AP Language and Composition is about 300 students this year as most juniors have chosen this course to fulfill their requirement.

Mr. Borrelli has recruited two people who are qualified to score essay exams and will look for one or two more. He asked for approval of \$6000 to pay the scorers so that the students would have regular/weekly feedback on their assignments, which would be impossible if the teacher alone had to grade all the essays.

Mr. Borrelli also reminded the meeting that AC received a UC Berkeley Chancellor's Grant of \$25,000 rather than the \$40,000 requested. He asked for \$3000 from ACAC to hire more tutors to support students who need help in AP Government, which is required for all seniors, and AP US History, which is another option for juniors to fulfill their AP requirement. The tutors would be UC Berkeley undergraduates who are majoring in the social sciences. The tutors would attend the AP classes twice a week to keep current with class content and hold weekly support sessions after school.

Jeremy Thorner moved that we vote on the \$6000 for additional essay graders; Johanna Reneke seconded the motion.

Action: Vote on \$6000 for essay graders passed unanimously.

Jeremy Thorner then moved that we vote on the \$3000 for tutors; Johanna Reneke seconded the motion.

Action: Vote on \$3000 for tutors passed unanimously.

AC Academic Development Class and Teacher's Assistant

Jessie Luxford, AC Academic Support Coordinator, requested funds for the two academic development classes for struggling freshmen and sophomores with 3 or more D's or F's who do not have support through another program such as Bridge or RISE. Andy Waranoff also teaches in this program. The students are recruited after the first progress reports of the year upon teacher recommendation. Counselor Brenda Kitagawa coordinates participation with students and their families. The purpose of this after-school program is not just to support work in current classes, but to improve student study skills and get the students back on the college track—a goal which receives a positive response from students. This year they will add writer coaches to the class.

BSEP funds .2 (\$20,000) and in past years ACAC has funded .1 (\$10,000) for crucial case management.

Ms. Luxford is going on maternity leave in January and she is also requesting help in funding the position of her teaching assistant, Erica Gratton. Ms. Gratton is a third-year student at San Francisco State University who excelled at this assistant position at Berkeley High last year, and is seen as an inspiring role model by the students. Ms. Gratton would provide crucial continuity to the students in the program in conjunction with Ms. Luxford's replacement in the spring. A teaching assistant serves for 20 hours a week for 37 weeks at a total cost of \$5,422.60. Ms. Luxford is trying to find additional funding elsewhere as well for this position.

Mr. Zolezzi proposed we vote on the \$10,000 for case management and have a provisional vote pending other sources of funding such as grants for Erica Gratton's position. Jeremy Thorner seconded the motion.

Action: Vote on \$10,000 for case management funding passed unanimously; an update on the teaching assistant position will be presented at the November meeting.

Report on Fundraising Efforts

Rahki Rao, AC Treasurer, reported that we have received \$13,042.50 in donations for the 2014-2015 school year so far.

Berkeley High Development Group Thank You's to Donors

Rakhi Rao attended the Berkeley High Development Group meeting on Monday, October 6. At the meeting it was suggested that thank-you notes be sent to donors who contribute over \$300.

Action: Ms. Rao will send postcards with a hand-written note to those who have contributed over \$300 to the AC Advisory Council.

Next ACAC Meeting

Friday November 7, 2014, 7:30-8:35 a.m. in BHS Conference Room B in the D Building.