

11/7/14 Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting

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

Minutes

In Attendance:

Who	Role	E-mail address
Tim Zolezzi	AC Co-Chair and AC Lead History Teacher	timothyzolezzi@berkeley.net
Matt Laurel	AC Co-Chair and Lead English Teacher	matthewlaurel@berkeley.net
Jessie Luxford	AC Academic Support	jessieluxford@berkeley.net
Erica Gratton	ACAS Teaching Assistant	
Daniel Nube	AC Vice Principal	danielnube@berkeley.net
Finn Collom	ACAC Student Representative	finncollom@students.berkeley.net
Hannalina Kalonji	ACAC Student Representative	hannalinakalonji@students.berkeley.net
Carolyn Cox	AC Parent	ccox2006@sbcglobal.net
Rene Kvidahl	AC Parent	
Juan C. Lauariega	AC Parent	jclavariega@gmail.com
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.

Protocol for Future Public Comments

AC Vice-principal Nube proposed we revise the protocol for public comments future AC meetings and have a system like they do at meetings of the BUSD School Board where members of the public are given two minutes to speak and there is no discussion or engagement with the speaker.

AC Parent Feedback: These limitations are not necessary, especially since there aren't many people who present public comments and the point is to hear and respond to the concerns of the community. It would probably be sufficient to regulate the public comments portion of the meeting by dividing the minutes allotted among the number of people who want to speak.

Jessie Luxford suggested we invite teachers and students to give specific presentations for the benefit of the AC community.

Jeremy Thorner moved to set aside 10 minutes for public comment and divide those minutes by the number of speakers. Questions and comments are allowed. Tim Zolezzi seconded the motion.

Action: Vote on public comments protocol passed unanimously.

Future Location for ACAC Meetings

Vice-principal Nube suggested that the ACAC continue to meet in Conference Room B, Building D because the previous meeting place did not have elevator access for the handicapped at the time of the meetings.

Rally Day Report

Vice-principal Nube spoke about the incident on Friday, October 24 when a group of Berkeley High juniors and seniors had a confrontation on campus as part of an informal continuation of the traditional Rally Day. A security staff member was hit on the head. There were a number of suspensions, one student was expelled and the investigation continues. The administration is trying to stay away from group punishment since the whole senior class did not participate in the disturbance. The student leadership is being proactive about ways to "reculture" Spirit Week.

Parent feedback: Parents asked if this was a result of less supervision. Nube replied, no, there was violence two years ago. Parents asked if the administration would consider reinstating Spirit Week and Rally Day officially if the rebellion-against-the-system element was removed. Nube said the School District was adamant we do not bring it back.

Staff and student feedback: Hannalina Kalonji, a senior, said an apology signed by 400 seniors and juniors was sent to the staff members of Berkeley High. The students are looking for something that will unite the classes without violence. They are looking into requiring community service hours to attend the prom. They may hold a fundraiser to support an organization that helps teenagers with drug and alcohol abuse. "School spirit" shouldn't be a one-day thing and students have a responsibility to step up when something is wrong.

Finn Collom, a junior, said many people want this event to happen, but now Rally Day

is not powerful in a good way. Maybe positive activities in the arts could be organized.

Matt Laurel said upperclassman should keep in mind they are setting an example for the sophomores and freshmen. He proposed they organize staff-student activities like a dodge ball game.

AC Academic Development Class and Teacher's Assistant

Jessie Luxford, AC Academic Support Coordinator, is going on maternity leave in January and she is 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 teaching 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 \$5,280. Ms. Luxford is continuing to try to find additional funding elsewhere for this position. In the future BIHS might join with this support program and then funds can be requested from the Berkeley High School Development Group.

Mr. Zolezzi said the necessary \$16,000 of funding is not sustainable if funded solely by ACAC. He would like to see the program grow and encourages an active pursuit of funding from BSEP and BHSDG.

Matt Laurel moved we vote on the \$5,280 to fund Erica Gratton's teaching assistant position. Johanna Reneke seconded the motion.

Action: Vote on \$5,280 to fund Erica Gratton's teaching assistant position passed unanimously.

Requests for Funding

Mr. Zolezzi requested funding for seventeen puzzles of maps of Africa that all teachers can use. Cost: \$260. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Zolezzi requested funding for a simulation game for his anthropology class that the IB anthropology teacher can also use. Cost for AC: \$150. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Zolezzi requested funding for the three AP US History teachers to meet to work on changing the course curriculum to conform to the redesign of the class by the College Board. Cost: \$300. Passed unanimously.

Fatima Mizbani, an AP Environmental Science teacher whose students are all from AC, requested funding for a field trip to the California Academy of Sciences including admission fees and bus rentals. She did not make her request to BHSDG in time for the trip. Cost: \$1060. Passed with one abstention.

AC Fall Information Night on October 22

Parents reported that they thought the AC Information Night was a success and that the format of presenting written questions for the teachers to answer worked well. The teachers also felt the meeting was a success and appreciated Jeremy Thorner providing

dinner for them. Teachers and parents commented that the presentations by the AC Student Representatives were an important part of making the meeting a success.

Next ACAC Meeting

Friday December 5, 2014, 7:30-8:35 a.m. in BHS Conference Room B in the D Building.