

**Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting
December 15, 2011, 4:00 – 5:30 PM BHS Room C213
Minutes**

In Attendance

Who	Role	E-mail address
Ben Sanoff	Teacher Rep, AC House Leader	bsanoff@berkeley.net
Philippe Henri	Teacher Rep, Math Dept.	phenri@berkeley.net
Alex Angell	Teacher Rep, Liaison to School Site Council	alexangell@berkeley.net
Vernon Walton	AC Vice Principal	vernonwalton@berkeley.net
Lawrence Grown	Parent Coordinator	Lawrence@metrolighting.com
Barbara Anscher	Parent Rep, Student Support	barbaraanscher@yahoo.com
Mary Engle	Parent Rep, Student Leadership, Teacher/Staff Liaison	maryengle@verizon.net
Julian Ludewigt	Student Rep	juludewigt@gmail.com
Hilary Hoynes	AC Parent Leadership Committee, Fundraising	hwhoynes@ucdavis.edu
Margit Roos-Collins	AC Parent Leadership Committee, School Site Council Rep	margitrooscollins@comcast.net
Randi Boorstein	AC Parent Leadership Committee, Liaison to Berkeley High School Development Group	randiboorstein@gmail.com
Fern Royce	Parent Outreach Coordinator	fern.royce@gmail.com
Jeremy Thorner	Guest – Parent	jthorner@berkeley.net
Jennifer Villeneuve	Guest - Parent	curryville@aol.com

Next ACAC Meeting

The next ACAC meeting date for January will be announced via the AC E-tree list.

Action Item: Matt Carton to announce the dates of ACAC meetings, January-May 2012.

Communications

Please use the ACAC-BHS group at Yahoo.com: to post a message send an email to ACAC-BHS@yahoo.com.

AC Student Representatives – Julian Ludewigt, Barbara Anscher, and Mary Engle

AC Student Rep Julian Ludewigt reported that the first semester in Associated Student Body (ASB) was busy with event planning, subcommittee work, and several “Reflections” papers on the events that they organized. With college applications and regular class work, senior AC Reps

had heavy work schedules. Students met once a week for ASB for 1 hour and then every other week during first period on Mondays.

Barbara Anscher reported for her daughter, Eleana Binder, also an AC Student Rep, though unable to attend due to a conflict). Students focused on issues, such as preconceptions/biases about small learning communities. They organized task forces on achievement gap, counselor access, tutoring programs, and community service access, and planned events such as “Back to School Night” and Holiday Meal. Students have participation and assignment completion points, but no credit for ACAC meetings/activities.

Reyna Fa-Kaji was playing in the first BHS Girls Basketball game so was unable to attend.

Action Item: Mary Engle will discuss the possibility of credit for AC participation with Chris Young, Director of Student Activities.

Mary Engle reported on the status of the AC Student Reps: Elena Pinderhughes dropped out in September. Celia Espinosa and Kyla Johnson never participated. Reyna Fa-Kaji, Eleana Binder, and Aaron Dressler were active participants and doing well. We will be recruiting 3 replacements for spring semester.

Action Item: Mary Engle will work with AC teachers to recruit 3 new AC Student Reps.

Lawrence noted that the Commencement Committee would benefit from input from student reps on Commencement planning.

Action Item: Lawrence will work with Commencement Committee to get input from AC Student Reps on the planning of the event.

AC Science and Mathematics Night – Margit Roos-Collins and Lawrence Grown

Margit and Lawrence sent out a brief survey that Margit summarized for ACAC. Though responses run the gamut, there were several core issues that need responses from AC and at least one that needs immediate follow-up.

Vernon noted that Matt and Evv have been working together on improving relevant language in the catalog (still being drafted). Vernon also stated that the problem was due, in part, to the fact that lab funding was on hold until BHS received word from the District, which didn't come until March. He hopes that this will be clarified sooner next year.

Ben noted that he and others have been working on moving lab information to the course area. Jeremy observed that labs were not even options in the printout that the students received when signing up for classes. All agreed that we need a clear policy on science courses and labs.

Margit suggested that labs be offered in the catalog with the caveat that the funding stream was uncertain, with wording like “If labs are not funded, they will not show up on the schedule that you receive on the first day of school in the fall.”

Alex asked how we were reaching out to families who haven't been to college and may not be able to navigate the catalog.

As part of the solution, Jennifer responded with a proposal to host "What's Up with Math and Science" for parents and students. The program was being designed to explain how those subjects work at BHS. Math and Science teachers (not present at the AC Fall General Meeting) would explain sequences for most students and the implications of coursework outside the normal sequence. Julian noted that sequence is important, particularly for chemistry and AP science classes, noting it was unwise to take chemistry as a freshman.

Proposal to host a "What's Up with Math and Science?" night was approved.

Action Item: Jennifer will set up a date, time, and room for the event and communicate the information via the E-tree to members of the AC community (most likely on a Thursday in the BHS Library). Alex volunteered to attend to represent the English and History Departments.

In future marketing of the AC program, we will note that students have more math and science options in AC than in any other SLC.

The second issue was the difficulty that many students had signing up for counseling appointments after the start of school for class change requests and other issues that required immediate attention.

Action Item: Lawrence and Margit will put together a document describing how to get counseling appointments. It will be made available right outside the counselors' offices.

Graphing Calculators – Ben Sanoff and Mary Engle

The Development Group grant was approved for additional graphic calculators, but none had yet been purchased. Questions were raised about how they would be distributed.

Action Item: Randi will look at the DG grant to determine what stipulations were put on the use of the funds, if any. She will forward this information to Lenore Goldman.

Action Item: Mary will ask Lenore Goldman to determine where they can be purchased as soon as possible and to purchase them. She will be reimbursed quickly, or, as an individual, she can request a check in advance. Angela Dean is the BHS point person on make and model. **Target date: January 15th for purchase** so they can be ready to distribute to students by the beginning of second semester. Lenore can talk to Barbara A. if problems arise.

When made available to students, it should be made clear that this is not a gift; students will be responsible for returning them to BHS at the end of the year.

Merger of AC Web Site with new BHS Web Site – Ben Sanoff

The new policy for the BHS web site is that, when you click on an SLC, you will get a description of the small learning community and then be sent to the SLC's web site.

The BHS tech group will provide templates if we want to migrate the AC web site to WordPress software. Ben noted that, as an SLC community, we need a platform consistent with the BHS platform (ease of manipulation between the two) and that can be updated by many people. We should have an outline of each of the 4 departments in AC with further information. The ACAC agreed that the migration should happen.

Action Item: Ben will review the issues, develop a rough budget, and get back to this group. Mary, Francesca, and Jim Webster volunteered to assist with the work of migration.

Live Translation at AC public meetings – Lawrence Grown

Lawrence informed the group that we have the technical capability to do live translations of our public meetings. The Parent Resource Center normally provides live translations, and with adequate notice, Leticia would likely provide them for AC public meetings. However, staffing is an issue because sometimes they are double-booked. We would need them for Math/Sci night, Fall and Spring General Meetings, What's Up with College Night, and the Back-to-School potluck.

The proposal to allocate \$500 to cover expenses for live translation for these events, if needed, was approved. If, for any reason, the PRC cannot provide live translation, we can hire translators.

Action Item: Lawrence will determine the number of meetings, money required, and other details and report back to the group.

2012 Commencement Planning – Lawrence Grown

Carol Brownstein volunteered to chair the Commencement Planning Committee for 2012. Dates would be either Friday, June 8th or Saturday June 9th. The ACAC had a preference for a Saturday late afternoon event. The last day of school is Friday June 15, 2012. People who can help with planning should contact Carol to volunteer.

Other Issues – Lawrence Grown

1) Progress Reports in writing

Action Item: Vernon will report to the Administration that the largest SLC prefers to have the progress reports sent out in the mail as in the past.

2) "What's Up with College Night" food.

Pizza has been provided in the past. **The proposal to spend \$50-\$100 on pizza was approved.**

3) AC Mentorship Program

Lawrence inquired about the AC Mentorship Program and submitted this report for the minutes.

Cooper Walton <minicooper23@gmail.com> and Evan Layefsky <evanlayefsky@yahoo.com> , both 11th graders, are chairing the mentorship cte. this year. Matt Carton is the teacher of record in charge.

There are about 40 mentors, 25+/- 10th graders and 15+/- in 11th grade.

Last year, there were 8 mentoring sessions. There have been 2 so far this year, with approximately 3-5 more to go.

The typical session format is that mentors lead the class, not the teacher, and they visit each 9th grade English class about once per month on a Monday, with about 4 mentors at each of the 10 English class sections.

They engage in team-building / community-building / ice breaker activities to help students learn more about themselves and each other. Following are two examples.

River of Fire

The class is a team that needs to cross the river, allowing only 4 appendages to touch the river. It's up to team negotiation how to make and execute a plan.

Step Over The Line If...

The class lines up along a thin rope. A series of conditions are listed. Step over the line if... your favorite color is blue...you like football...you like musicals...your parents are divorced...you know a homeless person...you've witnessed drug addiction...you've had a family member die...

The situations begin as light, and get more serious.

The final 15 minutes are reserved for reflection. Students are often surprised at how similar their experiences are, or how much they have in common with someone with whom they've rarely spoken.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.