

**Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting
February 1, 2013, 7:30 – 8:35 AM BHS room C213
Minutes**

In Attendance:

Who	Role	E-mail address
Ben Sanoff	Teacher rep, AC House Leader	bensanoff@berkeley.net
Vernon Walton	AC Vice Principal	vernonwalton@berkeley.net
Barbara Anscher	Parent rep, Student Support	barbaraanscher@gmail.com
Francesca Verdier	Parent rep, Secretary	francesca.verdier@gmail.com
Olga Volodina	Parent rep, Treasurer	olga-volodina@sbcglobal.net
Laurie Zimet	Parent rep	ziml@comcast.net
Evan Layefsky	Student rep	evlayefsky@gmail.com
Cooper Walton	Student rep	minicooper23@gmail.com
Randi Boorstein	AC Parent , Liaison to Berkeley High School Development Group	randiboorstein@gmail.com
Peter Geraghty	AC parent	peterjgeraghty@gmail.com
Sharon Krakai	AC parent	skrakai@comcast.net
René Kridahl	AC parent	
Heather Loucks	AC parent	
John Lavine	AC parent, BSEP liaison	johnclavine@gmail.com

College Trips Update

Heather Loucks talked with Angela Price at the College Career Center. (1) There is no funding for college trips. (2) Tracking where students go after BHS is via exit interviews; not everyone fills them out. The College Career Center is considering acquiring a software system to help with this - College Process Software called NAVIANCE.

Ben Sanoff reported that BIHS gets money from BPEF (Berkeley Public Education Foundation) to help pay for college trips. BIHS parents also contribute funds, and parents help with the logistics.

ACAC will not be organizing college trips this year.

Having Recent BHS Graduates Talk About College

Francesca Verdier contacted AC parent Lawrence Grown about this and found out that this was the AC event called "What's Up With College? Night", which took place right after winter break, in the first week of January. A number of recent graduates

are usually still in town and available to come chat with BHS students about the application process and the transition from high school to college. A separate "graduate" parent panel does the same for current parents.

ACAC proposes doing this in May if there is parent interest in helping to find speakers. **Action:** Francesca to solicit volunteers via the AC etree. Note: Seniors could be speakers as well as recent grads.

This discussion pointed out the need for a Master AC Events Calendar!

College Fair April 21

The College Career Center is hosting a college fair for Juniors and their parents/guardians on Sunday, April 21. The morning (11 – 12:30) is a college admissions case studies workshop – to attend you must pre-register at: <http://bhs.berkeleyschools.net/fairworkshop/>. The afternoon (1:00 – 4:00) will feature about 50 colleges with information and college representatives to talk with – held in the jacket Gym.

Chromebook Fundraiser

Ben Sanoff sent out additional requests for donations for 30 chromebooks and a cart – this Donors Choose project is now completely funded. See http://www.donorschoose.org/donors/proposal.html?id=933590&sharebar=true&utm_source=dc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=proposal_approve#materials List .

AC Commencement

Evan Layefsky surveyed about 100 seniors about their level on interest in having an AC commencement. 41% are very interested, 50% somewhat interested, and 9% not interested.

It seems that we should plan on having an AC commencement, but perhaps make it less formal and less like the all-school commencement at the Greek Theater. IBHS did a picnic last year; perhaps AC could have its commencement on the green. This needs teachers, students and senior parents to coordinate. **Action:** Francesca to recruit senior parents via the etree and need to find student and teacher volunteers at the next ACAC meeting. Evan or Cooper to ask for student volunteers at the next Student Leadership meeting.

BSEP Application for AC Support Coordinator Position

Vernon Walton and Jessie Luxford have met and started the application. They will get in touch with Susanna Moore for her help. They will try to get all the needed money from BSEP this year.

Laurie Zimet Replaces Susanna Moore as AC Parent Rep

Susanna has not been able to attend ACAC meetings this year due to her work schedule, and asked to resign. Laurie Zimet was elected unanimously to replace her.

AC AP Coordinator

Ben Sanoff presented the draft AC AP Coordinator position at 0.6 FTE. The AC Leadership team has been discussing the possibility of having an AP Coordinator, modeled after Russell Parker in IBHS, who coordinates academic support activities there.

Student outcomes for this position:

1. Increase number of AC students taking at least one AP class in their junior and senior years – for 2013/14 target a 10% increase; for 2014/15 target 100% participation.
2. All students in AC AP classes will have access to study group leaders for help.
3. All AC seniors will complete a “capstone project”
4. All 9th and 10th grade AC students will receive instruction and practice in the skills needed to succeed in AP classes.
5. All AC students will complete a social living class in accordance with California standards for this course.

Job description for the AC AP Coordinator position has the following work categories

- Communication with subject teachers / department heads
- Communication with counselors
- Communication with administration and district
- Student support
- Fundraising and supporting teacher needs

Discussion: There was lively discussion about the practicality/feasibility of all students taking AP. For the AC Leadership team this is a commitment to equity and a chance to refocus the nature of some of the AP classes. There was discussion on having one mandatory AP class (likely English or History) versus having AC students choose their strongest subjects for AP.

Fundraising

There was no time to discuss this topic; will address at the march ACAC meeting.

Next ACAC Meeting

Friday March 1 2013, 7:30 – 8:35 a.m. in BHS room C213.

Approval of January 2013 ACAC Minutes

Ben Sanoff approved the January 2013 ACAC minutes.