

**Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting
January 10, 2014, 7:30 – 8:35 AM BHS room C317
Minutes**

In Attendance:

Who	Role	E-mail address
Tim Zolezzi	ACAC Chair and AC Lead History Teacher	timothyzolezzi@berkeley.net
Matt Laurel	AC Lead English Teacher	matthewlaurel@berkeley.net
Ben Sanoff	AC Teacher Coordinator	bensanoff@berkeley.net
Vernon Walton	AC Vice Principal	vernonwalton@berkeley.net
Jessie Luxford	AC Support Coordinator	jessieluxford@berkeley.net
Erica Gratton	AC Teaching Assistant	gratton.eric@gmail.com
Barbara Anscher	Parent rep, Student Support	barbaraanscher@gmail.com
Jeremy Thorner	Parent rep	jthorner@berkeley.edu
Francesca Verdier	Parent rep, Secretary	francesca.verdier@gmail.com
Randi Boorstein	AC parent , Liaison to Berkeley High School Development Group	randiboorstein@gmail.com
Evelyn Enciso	AC Student	evey2396@gmail.com
Mallorie Baron	AC parent	
Rene Kvideehl	AC parent	
Heather Loucks	AC parent	
Johanna Reneke	AC parent	j.reneke@gmail.com
Laurent Roffe	AC parent	

Call for Additional parents to be on the ACAC

Action: Francesca to contact Lisa Sibony (lisasibony@berkeley.net), the volunteer coordinator for BHS, to get her help in recruiting parents for the ACAC.

Action: Francesca to give ACAC job descriptions to Tim Zolezzi – he will have a flyer for the February 6 Open House to pass out in freshman and sophomore history classes. Also give the flyers to the Parent Resource Center. The positions we need to fill for the 2014/1015 school year are:

- Fundraising
- Secretary

- Student Support
- Treasurer

We will need parents to run for elections at the Spring AC meeting.

Increasing the Number of Juniors Taking AP Courses

All seniors are taking AP Gov this year – this has been successful. Everyone present read an excerpt from a New York Times article, “Pulling a More Diverse Group of Achievers into the Advanced Placement Pool,” by Motoko Rich. This article highlights the importance of AP for both college and career success, and how AP classes foster a culture of learning.

Next year all juniors will be required to take at least one of the following 3 AP classes: AP Environmental Science, AP Language and Composition, AP US History. Seniors will continue to take AP Gov.

To support these AP students teachers will learn from what has worked for AP Gov: Pre-identify students who will need the most help and give them targeted support. Continue the partnership with UC Berkeley students to run study groups.

Student feedback: Good choice of AP courses. Make sure students know attendance is important – if you get behind it’s hard to catch up. Teachers will have to work harder on engagement – they will have to help students who aren’t getting it. Have a day in the Little Theater for sophomores where all 3 AP classes are described and the goals for taking them clarified. Ben Sanoff said he would be doing this by talking at all sophomore classes, but that the Little Theater idea was good as well.

Parent feedback: Some kids will be scared about getting lower grades – need to address that fear. Grading should include factors other than just AP test materials. Green Academy has required its juniors to take both AP Environmental Science and AP Language and Composition – get tips from them. This is a good way to get all students into the “going to college” mentality and will prepare them for college.

Request for funding

English teacher Matt Carton is requesting funds for a subscription to the Center for Learning, which gives access to teaching plans. Cost: \$99. Passed unanimously.

History teacher Jo Poppas is requesting funds to attend a class on how the college board is changing AP course curriculums and testing. There will be a de-emphasis on multiple choice questions on a huge number of topics and the new focus will be on in-depth teaching and testing. Cost: about \$300. Passed unanimously for no more than \$300.

AC Support Coordinator Jessie Luxford and AC Teaching Assistant Erica Gratton requested \$5,280 in additional funding to pay for Erica to teach struggling AC

students for an additional 10 hours per week. \$5,280 for the first 10 hours per week were approved at the September ACAC meeting, but Erica has been working at least 20 hours per week. Erica negotiates with teachers to see what work kids with low grades can do to raise their grades. She then works with the students to help them do this – 17 freshmen and sophomore students. Randi Boorstein said they could probably get this funding from the development group, and that she would help them apply. The ACAC group voted to approve the \$5,280 if it could not be obtained from the development group – passed unanimously.

Next ACAC Meeting

Friday February 7, 2014, 7:30 – 8:35 a.m. in BHS room C317.