

**Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting
June 6, 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	ACAC Teacher Coordinator	bensanoff@berkeley.net
Vernon Walton	AC Vice Principal	vernonwalton@berkeley.net
Barbara Anscher	Parent rep, Student Support	barbaraanscher@gmail.com
Donna Storey	Parent rep, future Secretary	donnageorgestorey@gmail.com
Jeremy Thorner	Parent rep	jthorner@berkeley.edu
Rakhi Rao	Parent rep, future Treasurer	rakhiprao@gmail.com
Johanna Reneke	Parent rep	j.reneke@gmail.com
Francesca Verdier	Parent rep, Secretary	francesca.verdier@gmail.com
Olga Volodina	Parent rep, Treasurer	olga-volodina@sbcglobal.net
Randi Boorstein	AC parent , Liaison to Berkeley High School Development Group	randiboorstein@gmail.com
Quinn Gaebler	AC student rep	quinngaebler@students.berkeley.net
Sophia Jimenez	AC student rep	Jimenez.sophie5@gmail.com
Alex Angel	AC history teacher and AC parent	alexangell@berkeley.net
Rene Kvidahl	AC parent	
Heather Loucks	AC parent	

Thank You to Departing ACAC Members

Jeremy Thorner graciously thanked the 6 non student departing members (Barbara Anscher, Randi Boorstein, Ben Sanoff, Francesca Verdier, Olga Volodina, Vernon Walton) with bottles of wine – thank you Jeremy! The departing students (Quinn Gaebler and Sophia Jimenez) received a thunderous round of applause for all the

work they've done – most recently the very successful and well attended AC graduation.

Math Tutoring Update

Donna Storey will continue this project next school year. The math department is conducting an online survey to solicit student feedback about the program. It's still a challenge for students to find tutoring opportunities. Ben Sanoff mentioned that the math department is changing with the coming of Common Core and that this may be an opportunity to improve the tutoring program.

Back-to-School Picnic for Incoming Families

The back-to-school picnic for incoming families will be held Saturday August 23, 2014, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM on the campus green. Matt Laurel and Tim Zolezzi will work with facilities to make sure their requirements are met. ACAC can pay for security if needed. Jeremy Thorner will coordinate the barbecue. Sophia Jimenez will recruit 5 juniors to attend the event and lead new students around the campus. At least one ACAC parent should be there to answer parent questions.

Check Processing Contact

New treasurer Rakhi Rao volunteered to replace Hilary Hoynes as the “check receiver and processor”. This means that the return address labels for the summer mailing will need to use her address.

AC Etree

Nobody has volunteered to replace Rebecca Herman for the AC etree, so at least initially there will not be an AC etree next year. The BHS etree will likely suffice for announcements. However, a topic for the first ACAC meeting in the 2014/2015 school year should be whether to develop a list of AC email addresses and maybe use Mail Chimp to manage them.

Summer Fundraising Mailing

This will happen in early August, once the mailing labels for the incoming AC families has been acquired. Donna Storey will coordinate this.

Still need AC Parent Liaison to Berkeley High School Development Group

This should be revisited in the 2014/2015 school year.

UC Berkeley Community Partnership Grant

AC did receive a grant, to pay for UC students to provide tutoring for the humanities AP classes and AP environmental science, as well as a project manager for the AP tutoring program, but only \$25,000 of the \$40,000 requested. In response to the lower amount Ben Sanoff decided to use this money to pay for .2 FTE for a project manager. Enough money will be leftover to pay for 4 UC Berkeley student study group leaders. Someone will have to apply for funding from the BHSDG, the Berkeley Schools fund, and/or ACAC for additional study group leaders. Pasquale Scuderi is supportive since this program is aligned with the WASC goals. Ben Sanoff will ask Pasquale to write a letter of support.

MOU for Jessie Luxford

Barbara Anscher will write the Memorandum of Understanding for Jessie Luxford, the AC student support coordinator, so that she can get paid. She will send the MOU to Vernon Walton.

Backup Help to Process Payments for UC Readers

Randi Boorstein volunteered to back up Barbara Anscher to make sure UC Readers get paid in case Barbara cannot finish this before leaving on vacation. This involves printing out the check requests to the BHSDG, attaching the wage statements, and getting Vernon Walton's signature.

New Funding Requests

Request for \$3,000 to pay for two new history teachers for AP macroeconomics and AP government to get AP training: unanimously approved.

Request for \$1,200 for Tim Zolezzi to attend a coaching workshop for teacher leaders: unanimously approved.

Science Labs

Randi Boorstein reported that science labs seem to be advertised as extra credit – they should help a student with their science grade. But this is not so; some of the labs are difficult and students may end up receiving a lower grade than their grade for the corresponding science class. Vernon Walton clarified that these are a credit classes with their own grade and that this is clearly stated in the course catalog. It seems that the misunderstanding may happen when some science teachers encourage students to sign up for a lab. Teachers need to adhere to the course catalog description when advertising the labs. Jeremy Thorner will draft a letter to the science teacher community; Matt laurel will deliver it.

End of Year ACAC Dinner

After the meeting Francesca Verdier sent out a doodle poll to find a date for the end of year ACAC celebratory dinner: <http://doodle.com/7k4a5pm88yinre7g>.

Thank You's for ACAC Student Reps

Ben Sanoff proposed a cash thank you for the ACAC student members: unanimously approved. Ben will make this happen.

First ACAC Meeting of the 2014/2015 School Year

Friday August 29, 2014, 7:30 – 8:35 a.m. in BHS room C317.