

12/5/14 Academic Choice Advisory Council (ACAC) Meeting

December 5, 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
David Borrelli	AP Coordinator	davidborrelli@berkeley.net
Angela Coppola	AC History Teacher	angelacoppola@berkeley.net
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
Sam Arriole	AC Parent	
Rene Kvidahl	AC Parent	
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.

Honors Math Tutoring Update

Donna Storey reported on the changes in the honors math tutoring program for the 2014-2015 school year. In the results of last year's survey of honors math students, 51% of the total honors students replied and 49% said, "I get signatures but do not tutor."

Because of limited opportunities for tutors and a high number of hours for juniors and

seniors, the math department reduced the required hours for the current school year. They now regularly publish a list of opportunities through the College Career Center for student reference. Wyn Skeels, the College Career tutoring supervisor, visited most of the honors classes to give tutor training.

In addition, in June of 2014, the SSC passed a formal recommendation to the principal and the math department suggesting that parents be allowed to sign an opt-out form excusing honors math students from the tutoring requirement. There has been no action on this recommendation.

Jeremy Thorner suggested the math department put more attention into pairing tutors with students who need help. Mr. Zolezzi said that they would need an appointed tutoring coordinator to make this work.

ACAC Budget and Fundraising

ACAC Treasurer Rahki Rao presented a Statement of Activities for Academic Choice as of December 4, 2014. Donations so far for the 2014-2015 school year have reached \$14,687.70, which is less than half of the donations of previous years.

Donna Storey expressed concern that ACAC may not have the necessary funds for our requirements going forward this year and next year, especially with the new demands for graders and tutors for the required AP classes for all juniors and seniors.

The council discussed ways to raise additional funds. Mr. Borrelli asked student representatives Hannalina Kalonji and Finn Collom if they had any ideas for new ways to raise funds. Ms. Kalonji mentioned the CAS calendar fundraiser, pointing out that the parents have an incentive to buy the calendar because it contains CAS student artwork and the profits go to the CAS student retreat. Mr. Collom said that AC parents often don't know where to give money. This is complicated by the fact that checks must be written to the Berkeley High School Development Group and designated for AC in the memo line.

VP Nube agreed that fundraising relies on the donors desire to connect with something specific that will benefit students. He suggested that we brand AC and raise its profile, perhaps with something like a contest for an AC T-shirt designed by students.

Mr. Borrelli repeated that student involvement in fundraising would increase our chances of success.

We will continue the discussion of this issue at future meetings.

Request for Funding for AC Teacher Computer

ACAC Treasurer Rahki Rao reported that sometimes AC teachers submit requests for funding directly to the Berkeley High School Development Group, but the AC Advisory Council must vote first on funding through our resources before the BHSDG will consider the request.

AC Teacher Amanda Green submitted a request for the purchase of a new laptop to the BHSDG, which the ACAC first must consider for funding. Mr. Zolezzi pointed out that

this will set a precedent for all AC teachers to request a laptop through the ACAC and we do not have the funds to cover everyone.

Action: Vote on Ms. Green's request—4 abstentions, 6 nays. The request was denied.

Request for Funding for AP US History Tutoring

Angela Coppola has been staying after school to help the tutors from UC Berkeley who have been funded by \$3000 from the UC Chancellor's Grant to help Berkeley High students in AP US History. AP US History enrollment has increased to 6 sections this year because of the new requirement that all AC juniors take at least one AP course. Ms. Coppola has found that students will not stay after school to work with the tutors on their own. However, when she stays, the authority of the teacher encourages students to come and establish a relationship with the tutor. Tutoring is particularly valuable for the one-on-one help with writing essays. Ms. Coppola has been staying after school twice a week and requested a stipend for her time--\$2000 for 2 days a week for one to one-and-a-half hours through June 2015.

Donna Storey asked how many students were involved and Ms. Coppola replied that currently three students regularly stayed after school for tutoring. Mr. Zolezzi encouraged Ms. Coppola to promote the program with flyers and incentives to try and increase participation to 15 to 20 students.

VP Nube suggested that we come up with a rubric for the ACAC to determine the impact of a program on student achievement and build in a system of accountability.

Mr. Zolezzi suggested that we vote on an interim amount of \$1000 for 2 hours a week until March. At our March 6 meeting, Ms. Coppola will report on participation.

Action: Vote on funding for Ms. Coppola's supervision of tutoring until March passed unanimously.

Request for Funding for Readers to Help Grade Sample AP Tests

Mr. Borrelli asked for funds to get more support for AP US History teachers helping students with IEPs. VP Nube suggested Mr. Borrelli explore getting a TIP (Teacher Initiated Project) grant for this.

AC Parent Letter of Support for Strategic Impact Grant

Mr. Borrelli asked AC parent members to provide a letter of support for the application for a Strategic Impact Grant from the Berkeley Public Schools Fund. This money could be used to pay tutors. Jeremy Thorner volunteered to take this on and have a letter by Monday, December 8.

Vice Principal's Report on Upcoming WASC Report

VP Nube gave a brief overview of the process for the upcoming Western Association of Schools and Colleges Report. WASC requires that schools prepare a long report of self-reflection. WASC will visit Berkeley High in March and attend every class. The last WASC visit at BHS was three years ago. VP Nube is working on the new report now. If

any member of the community would like to read the documents from current and past years, they can view them at <http://bhs.berkeleyschools.net/information/wasc/>

Next ACAC Meeting

Friday January 9, 2015, 7:30-8:35 a.m. in BHS Conference Room B in the D Building.