

## Design of the Academic Senate Website

### Logotype

This was created by David Koeth, professor in the Graphic Arts department at Bakersfield College.

### Random Images

This is handled, partly, by free javascripts provided by The JavaScript Source (<http://javascriptsource.com>). The idea for the portion added for “ALT=” accessibility came from David Barnett, webmaster at Bakersfield College. The images are in a 3 by 1 (actually 3 inches by 1 inch) jpg format cropped from original images taken by Tom Moran (and if by others they will be mentioned here).

The images are all stored in the “grafx” folder by number—perhaps not the best approach—and the ALT text is put in the “javascript\_code.htm” file in the “includes” folder, one to correspond to each numbered image.

The image reload occurs each time the image is clicked and each time the page is opened initially or refreshed.

### Includes

The code for the page header, the raw html for the menu, and the javascript code from the head portion of each page are asp includes from code stored in the “includes” folder.

There are several benefits from using this approach. The code is inserted into each page when the page is loaded. This makes the page code smaller to work with and lets us change the code on all pages by changing the code in one of the include files.

Secondly, working with the menu html (the indented bulleted list) is awkward when it is displayed using the CSS to format the menu. When the stand-alone menu file “senate\_menu.htm” is opened then it looks like and is a simple structure that is easy to work with.

### Horizontal Menu

The menu is a simple, nested bulleted list. The associated CSS file(s) configures that list into a horizontal menu bar. The code for this came straight from the book, “stylin’ with CSS: A Designer’s Guide” by Charles Wyke-Smith. This book was published in 2005 by New Riders with ISBN 0-321-30525-6.

The benefits of this approach provide a nested horizontal menu that is accessible because it is all text and looks as if it were a simple, nested, bulleted list to someone using a screen reader. It also takes less “real estate” from the width of the page that is left for the Academic Senate “sub-page” portion that is left after the main Bakersfield College header and navigation takes its bite of the page pie.

The nested list is structured in a special way that needs to be carefully tended to when the menu is modified. Because we don't know where FrontPage is inserting the cursor in the code when we are in design mode, it's usually better to check the code details after changing text, or to make changes directly in the code.

The only "tricky" part is the way each nested `<ul>...</ul>` is inserted inside the parent `<li>...</li>` item. Normally the sequence is:

1. `<li>...</li>`
2. `<ul>`
3. `<li>...</li>`
4. `..</ul>`
5. `<li>...</li>`

But in this construct the `</li>` at the end of line one is added following the nested `<ul>...</ul>`, that is at the end of line 4 as follows:

1. `<li>...`
2. `<ul>`
3. `<li>...</li>`
4. `..</ul></li>`
5. `<li>...</li>`

All I can say about it at this point is that it works, so if you modify the nested items, keep the nesting correct or the horizontal menu won't work properly.

The `//` was inserted at the beginning of links as a clue that those links went to web pages rather than to documents but that may be confusing and could be easily removed.

The `...` was added to the end of parent menu items so indicate there was a sub-menu. Bold `<b></b>` was added to the `...` so it stood out clearly enough in the visible menu.

If the menu gets too long it wraps around and makes two lines and it just doesn't work very well, so be careful if you rename the first level items.

## CSS

There are two CSS files linked to each asp page, one that controls the text in the main part of the page and the other that controls the menu. The CSS for the menu is commented so if you want to change colors or widths it is fairly easy to find. However, the style sheet is finally tuned and is doing something pretty complicated and it doesn't take much to disable the functioning of the menu by tweaking the wrong combination of parameters. The two style sheets are in the "css" folder and are linked to each page except to the "included" pages.

As mentioned above the CSS code for this menu came straight from the book, "stylin' with CSS: A Designer's Guide" by Charles Wyke-Smith. This book was published in 2005 by New Riders with ISBN 0-321-30525-6.

**Template**

Each new added page should be built on the template page, “senate\_template.asp”. An area in the page has comment lines to indicate where the page text is supposed to be inserted. This page is not a “template” in the strictest sense because if you change the template those changes will not trickle down to pages that were built on it. For changes to impact all pages, they need to be made in the include files.

**Author**

The original version of this site was created in the Spring of 2007 as one of Senate President John Gerhold’s annual goals. This original version was created by Clark Parsons with some initial content suggestions from Helen Acosta.