

Samueli Academy Academic Committee Meeting

University of California, Irvine
School of Education
3200 Education, Office # 2050
Irvine, CA 92697-5500

January 19, 2016

4:00 – 5:30pm

Minutes

Attended: Marian Bergeson, Sandi Jackson, Anthony Saba, Deborah Lowe Vandell, Nicole Washington

1. Approval of minutes for November 10, 2015 Academic Committee Meeting

Nicole Washington motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Anthony Saba; four in favor and one abstain, due to absence of the meeting.

2. Review of November Action Items

Deborah Lowe Vandell informed the Committee that the first action item for review is the best use of the internal and external Academic Scorecard. Additionally, Deborah stated that it was determined at the November 10, 2015 Academic Committee meeting to use both the internal and external scorecard. Head of School, Anthony Saba informed the Committee members that the Academic Scorecard is now on display in the Samueli Academy front office. Deborah asked Anthony to provide additional feedback on the scorecard as it is received from the general public.

Deborah Lowe Vandell opened the floor for Head of School, Anthony Saba to discuss the November action item: Teacher compensation and incentives. Anthony informed the Committee members that he was asked to identify all factors that impacted teacher retention, both monetary and non-monetary, and identify the strengths and weaknesses for each factor. Anthony shared the following strengths and weaknesses that were identified; a shared purpose with Samueli Academy teachers for the Samueli Academy mission, project based learning, professional development, freedom from traditional constraints, supportive leadership, compensation package and work calendar. Anthony shared that he feels the strengths outweigh the weaknesses, however, some of the identified strengths are also weaknesses. Anthony explained that project based learning and freedom from traditional constraints are good things, but create additional work for teachers as there is no set curriculum. The Academic Committee reviewed the Samueli Academy teacher compensation. Sandi Jackson suggested looking in depth at growing Samueli Academy and looking into alternative revenue sources.

Sandi Jackson referred to the third action item, how to best grow the Samueli Academy. Sandi reported that two of the suggestions are to increase daily attendance or add an independent study program to the Samueli Academy. Deborah Lowe Vandell asked Head of School, Anthony Saba to create a strategy for accommodating an additional daily attendance of 25, 50, 75 or 100 students and what the impact would be to school culture. Anthony reminded the Committee that the City of Santa Ana will not allow the Samueli Academy to increase daily attendance until there is a senior class and a parking study has been completed. Additionally, Anthony stated that adding an independent study program would not have parking restrictions with the City of Santa Ana, as the students study independently off campus. Anthony informed the Committee that a separate charter would be required to implement an independent study program at Samueli Academy.

3. Teacher Motivation and Incentives

Marian Bergeson shared with the Committee that while she was at Newport/Mesa School District they implemented “The Good Ideas”. Teachers were encouraged to submit their ideas and if the idea was selected, the teacher would receive \$5,000 as a form of merit. Additionally, Marian mentioned that she believes there needs to be incentives for Samueli Academy teachers.

4. Samueli Academy’s Official Partnership with UCI

Samueli Academy’s Official Partnership with University of California Irvine was not discussed in the January 19, 2016 Academic Committee meeting and will be an agenda item on the Tuesday, February 16, 2016 Academic Committee meeting agenda .

5. Advisory Council Update

Nicole Washington provided a report that the Advisory Council is working to secure pathways for students following graduation from Samueli Academy. If students are not going to attend a four year college following graduation, the Advisory Council is working to secure apprenticeships for students to be placed in following graduation.

6. New Business – All

The next Samueli Academy Academic Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016.