

Samueli Academy Academic Committee Meeting

University of California, Irvine
3200 Education Building
Irvine, CA 92697

January 17, 2017

4:00 – 5:00pm

Minutes

Attended: Anthony Saba, Patsy Janda and Nicole Washington

1. Approval of the November 8, 2016 Academic Committee meeting minutes

Patsy Janda motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Anthony Saba; all in favor.

2. 2016 External Scorecard

Nicole Washington presented to the Committee the 2016 external Scorecard and thanked the Committee for their contributions, especially former Committee and Board member, Elim Kay. Additionally, Nicole asked Head of School, Anthony Saba for feedback on the Scorecard and Anthony stated the Scorecard has been well received as the data displayed is impressive.

3. SAT/ACT Scores

Anthony Saba provided a report on the Samueli Academy SAT scores and informed the Committee that due to the many different administrations of the SAT test, the SAT scores have not been formally compiled yet. Anthony stated that Samueli Academy students are slightly over the state average, however, test scores are impacted due to Samueli Academy students with learning disabilities taking the SAT test, which is encouraged at Samueli Academy. Additionally, Samueli Academy students are encouraged to take a six week SAT boot camp and retest if a low SAT score is received.

Nicole stated that the Career Advisory Council would like to offer assistance to Samueli Academy students interested in pursuing and/or attending a four year college. Anthony informed the Committee that the cost of the SAT boot camp is approximately \$142, which typically is financially split between the student and Samueli Academy, however, Samueli Academy will cover the full cost if necessary.

4. 2016 Board Retreat Follow-Up Report

Nicole Washington presented to the Committee a Follow-up Report from the 2016 Board Retreat, which outlines the following strategic initiatives that the Board of Trustees has assigned to the Academic Committee:

- Financial Model and Sustainability
- Independent Study Program
- Charter School Competition, Marketing, and Recruitment

Anthony Saba provided an update on the Independent Study Program and stated that the initiative has been on hiatus following the presentation made by the Orange County Department of Education, at the November 29, 1016 Board of Trustees meeting. However, Anthony stated that there has been tremendous support for a charter junior high school expansion, which would reach students earlier in their academic trajectory. Nicole stated that the junior high expansion would also serve as a factor in the financial model, increasing revenue and will be reviewed in a joint meeting held by the Academic and Finance Committee.

Nicole asked Anthony if there is an expected target date for the junior high expansion and Anthony stated that the expansion is dependent on the Student Services and Residential Housing Buildings being built, which are expected to be complete in approximately three years. Additionally, Nicole stated that the Samueli Academy charter will expire in June of 2018 and the Governance Committee is currently working on the charter petition renewal. The Committee concurred on a goal to have a report for the full on the middle school expansion initiative at the May 23, 2017 Board meeting and the financial model initiative in August of 2017.

Nicole referred to the charter school competition, marketing and recruitment initiative in the follow-up report and asked Anthony for an update on the perceived message of serving underserved youth. Anthony stated that faculty chooses to use friendlier language and not use labels such as “underprivileged”, however, the language used by the media sometimes has negative effects on the community’s perception of Samueli Academy. Nicole made the suggestion to draft an internal script of suggested language to use when representing Samueli Academy.

Anthony provided an update on what may have caused families to dis-enroll and stated that parents have shown concern regarding Samueli Academy serving foster and underserved youth. Additionally, Anthony stated that there was negative publicity prior to the 2016-17 recruitment period, which had negative impacts on Samueli Academy enrollment. Anthony suggested waiting until after the 2017-18 recruitment period to reevaluate Samueli Academy enrollment. The Committee concurred on a goal to have a report for the full Board on the charter school competition, marketing and recruitment initiative at the April 25, 2017 Board meeting.

Nicole referred to the next step for non-graduating students and asked Anthony to briefly update the Committee on the new position at Samueli Academy for a Director of Alumni Success, which has been filled by Norah Sarsour.

5. Compliance Calendar

The Committee reviewed the upcoming items on the compliance calendar and Nicole stated that the upcoming February Academic Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 and not February 19, 2017. Additionally, Nicole stated that she will confirm with the Finance Committee a joint Committee meeting date.

6. New Business

No additional new business was brought forth.

7. Adjourn

A motion was made by Patsy Janda, seconded by Anthony Saba and carried to adjourn the Tuesday, January 17, 2017 Academic Committee meeting.

The next Samueli Academy Academic Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017.