

Samueli Academy Academic Committee Meeting

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

November 10, 2015

4:00 – 5:30pm

Minutes

Attended: Elim Kay, Sandi Jackson, Anthony Saba, Deborah Lowe Vandell, Nicole Washington

1. Approval of minutes for October 20, 2015 Academic Committee Meeting

Nicole Washington motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Elim Kay; all in favor.

2. Project A.C.E. (Anteaters for College Excellence) Memorandum of Understanding

Head of School, Anthony Saba reported that Project A.C.E. is a University of California, Irvine (UCI) program that partners thirty current UCI students with thirty Samueli Academy junior students. The program targets to mentor students that are at risk of not attending college. Project A.C.E. is offered to the Samueli Academy at no cost and will be supervised by Samueli Academy School Counselor, Rocio Gomez.

Additionally, Nicole Washington informed the Committee members that Project A.C.E. is part of the Dalai Lama Endowed Scholarship and is led by Program Director, Karina Hamilton who is a scholar recipient of the Dalai Lama Endowed Scholarship Program.

Anthony informed the Committee members that the MOU has been fully vetted and complies with the Orange County Department of Education Memorandum of Understanding. Anthony will be presenting Project A.C.E. to the full Board at the Tuesday, November 24th Board of Trustees meeting.

3. Scholarship Prep Public Charter School

Anthony Saba informed the Committee members that Scholarship Prep Public Charter School reached out to the Samueli Academy. Scholarship Prep is a school that has yet to be approved, but would be a K-8 grade charter school and located in Santa Ana, CA. Their mission is to serve children in foster care. If they are approved and when they become established Anthony told their Executive Director, Jason Watts that the Samueli Academy would be happy to talk with their staff about the successes of the Samueli Academy. There is no formal partnership between the Samueli Academy and Scholarship Prep, but there is potential of them becoming a feeder school to Samueli Academy in the future.

4. Review of teacher satisfaction surveys

Anthony Saba informed the committee that he sent out an anonymous survey to Samueli Academy staff to gather general information regarding student support and staff satisfaction. The survey results were very positive and Anthony will distribute the results of the survey to the Committee members.

5. Discuss strategies for reaching students sooner and development of a plan for addressing academic action items

Deborah Lowe Vandell distributed to the Committee a timeline and action plan to address the Academic Committees responsibilities that were identified at the Board Retreat.

The Samueli Academy scorecard is to remain as an internal document, however, an external scorecard is to be developed for students, parents and donors. The external scorecard will display the following Samueli Academy statistics:

- Attendance rate
- Technology driven curriculum, including 1 to 1 student laptop ratio
- Test scores

Deborah referred to the second item, teacher retention and compensation. Deborah suggested that Anthony Saba and Aimee Bilderback look into the following items and bring suggestions to the Tuesday, January 19, 2016 meeting Academic Committee meeting.

- Identify the qualities of teachers the Samueli Academy seeks to retain
- Factors that will impact Samueli Academy teacher retention

The Committee agreed to discuss reaching students earlier in their trajectory in March of 2016. Additionally, Deborah suggested that Anthony Saba, Aimee Bilderback and Samueli Academy staff discuss the topic and brainstorm ideas prior to the Committee discussion in March.

6. Approval of recommended 2015-16 Samueli Academy goals to be brought to the Board

Deborah Lowe Vandell reminded the Committee that the recommendation was previously sent to the full Board for discussion, but not as a recommendation for approval.

Sandi Jackson motioned to approve the recommended 2015-16 Samueli Academy goals; seconded by Nicole Washington; all in favor.

7. New Business – All

Samueli Academy Academic Committee Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 19, 2016.