

Samueli Academy Academic Committee Meeting

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

October 20, 2015

4:00 – 5:30pm

Minutes

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

1. Approval of minutes for September 15, 2015 Academic Committee Meeting

Marian Bergeson motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Sandi Jackson; all in favor.

2. Update from Head of School

Head of School, Anthony Saba reported that on Friday, October 16, 2015 the Samueli Academy had a Career Ignition Conference for sophomore and junior students. The conference had breakout sessions for career awareness, multiple industries, interview skills, motivational speaking and career readiness at large.

Additionally, Anthony reported on the Homework Club, after school program. Samueli Academy foster youth students with a D or F in any class are required to attend the Homework Club for tutoring and homework assistance. Anthony reported that the program is going well and some improvement is being seen, although some students still struggle.

Two new foster youth have been enrolled and are acclimating very well. Tripling the number of foster youth students since opened Samueli Academy in August, 2013.

3. 2015 Academic Scorecard Feedback & Initial Discussion of Plans for 2016

Deborah Vandell referred to page three of the Samueli Academy Board Retreat Summary Report and reviewed the next steps for the Scorecard. Additionally, Anthony Saba distributed the 2014-15 Samueli Academy goals, as the 2015-16 goals need to be set. Anthony reported that all eight of the 2014-15 goals were met and that there will be overlap for the 2015-16 goals. Anthony informed the Committee members that the goal set for the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) no longer applies, as the CAHSEE will no longer be given and has been replaced with the Common Core Exam.

There will be a new goal set for the Common Core, initially regarding the successful implementation of smarter balanced assessments and establishment of a baseline.

Anthony Saba reported that the goal to maintain TAILOR binders is not applicable to the 2015-16 year goals.

The 95% attendance rate goal will roll over to the 2015-16 year goals.

The goal to maintain comparable scores to last year's school culture survey will roll over to the 2015-16 year goals.

The goal to receive WASC accreditation was met and will be readdressed for 2015-16.

A-G course approval, on all courses of study was met and will be readdressed for 2015-16 to approve all new courses of study.

Recruit a minimum of 120 freshmen for the 2016-17 school year will be a 2015-16 year goal.

Retain at least 90% of the current freshmen and sophomore students for the 2016-17 school year will be a 2015-16 year goal.

Securing 120 summer internships for juniors will be added to the 2015-16 year goals.

Anthony Saba is to document the 2015-16 Samueli Academy goals, which will be brought to the full Board as an informational Academic Committee item for discussion.

In order to determine whether the Scorecard will be an internal or external document, the purpose of the document needs to be determined, in a discussion around the Scorecard need.

Additionally, Deborah Vandell is to provide Anthony Saba the 2014-15 survey information to report back to the teachers.

4. Discuss Optimal School Size

Marian Bergeson suggested the Board of Trustees and Committee Chairs meet to confirm an articulation. Anthony Saba suggested doing due diligence and exploring other opportunities to increase funding other than increasing enrollment. Anthony informed the Committee members that he has concerns with increasing the Samueli Academy enrollment. Another possible opportunity Anthony suggested was, Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) independent study, a program for students who cannot attend a comprehensive five days a week educational environment. Additionally, Anthony added that he is not advocating for Independent Study and that more discussion is needed, but he would like to look into all opportunities before increasing enrollment.

5. Career Academy, Mentorships, and Internships

Nicole Washington reported that the Career Advisory Council is working to increase the effectiveness of the relationship with Samueli Academy staff and faculty. Additionally, the council members are doing a career exploration with the freshman students. Nicole reported that the mentorship program has started, which will be project based learning and very engaging with the students. There are approximately 40 internships and many more internships are still needed.

6. New Business – All

Samueli Academy Academic Committee Meeting will be held Tues., November 10, 2015.