

Samueli Academy Academic Committee Meeting

Samueli Academy
1901 N Fairview Street
Santa Ana, CA 92706

June 20, 2017

4:00 – 5:00pm

Minutes

Attended: Patsy Janda, Richard Arum, Nicole Washington, Sandi Jackson and Anthony Saba

Non Attendance: Sun Kim

1. Approval of the May 16, 2017 Academic Committee minutes.

Patsy Janda motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Sandi Jackson; all in favor.

2. Academic and Finance Committee Meeting

Nicole Washington asked the committee for their feedback about the joint meeting. The committee generally consented that it went well.

3. School Survey

Richard Arum provided to the Committee a detailed report of the student survey conducted by UCI. He informed the Committee that it includes the entire content of the survey broken down by grade level. He also provided highlights of subjects that seemed of high importance. Richard thoroughly provided information on each of the highlights. He informed the committee that in comparison to college students, who report spending about 8 hours a week studying, Samueli Academy students are reporting spending an average of 10 hours a week studying after school. Which in return reflects on the riggor of the curriculum. The highlights also included a decline from the freshman class in attachment and feeling like they are a part of the school community. Although the percentage is significantly better compared to other schools, it is historically lower than what previous freshman classes have reported. Anthony Saba commented that it could be due to this freshman class being the first class that also had a senior class on campus. Richard stated that attachment underlines the growth and success of the school so it may be worth attention. Another item that reported a decrease was community engagement in Authentic Audience presentations. Anthony mentioned that the amount of presentations has increased and there are not enough adults to keep up with the growing number of students. Although the students are not getting the same number of audience members, it has not lowered the Academic Engagement, Enthusiasm, and Engagement measure. Richard mentioned a few other highlights in detail including a rise in technology use, a rise in satisfaction of teachers, and the survey also includes college acceptance since there is now a graduating class.

Anthony brought forth the question about the necessity, benefit, and actions that are taken from completing such lengthy surveys. He states that many times it seems that students are reporting inaccurate data or may choose to not participate because they experience burn out with what they perceive as answering similar questions several times a year. The Committee responded with several supporting points including that this is a new school and it holds the responsibility of making sure that what is being done is working. Richard also commented that practices can be improved by taking data to the next level and implementing programs that could improve the statistics, such as implementing more clubs and social networks. Sandi also commented that in the Charter, Samueli Academy pledges to improve and sustain through tangible data.

The Committee asked Anthony what the process is of distributing the data to the teachers, which Anthony stated that he has a meeting at the beginning of the school year to give them a summary of the results. The committee suggested specifically mentioning the freshmen and their lack of feeling like they are a part of the school community. He proceeded to add that because the students are chosen through a lottery they come from all over the county and data may significantly vary from year to year. In addition, Anthony commented that this is the first year where all four grade levels were in practice, and within in the next few years, proper statistics and more realistic data will be provided. Ultimately the Committee discussed looking at the change in the statistics over the next few years to see if they are ultimately affecting the success of Samueli Academy.

4. Charter Renewal

Sandi presented on the Charter Renewal and reminded the Committee that during the previous meeting, all the members took an Element to think about and work on. The Committee discussed the mission statement and the need for a statement that mentions “college and career,” language, and possibly rethinking the inclusion of the word “underserved,” in regards to the youth. Anthony shared the unofficial vision statement that he and the staff had previously developed. Sandi asked that Anthony and the school administrators take the lead on the revision of the mission statement, in hopes for Board approval in October. Nicole asked Committee members to send the work they have done to Anthony to use during his meeting with the consultant.

5. Career Advisory Council

Nicole reported that there are open positions on the Career Advisory Board. A sub-committee will be established to provide support for the counselors and make sure students are aware of the different scholarships that are available, and possibly increase their chances of going to the school of their choice. The Summer Internship Program is short 12 internships, Nicole encouraged the Committee to forward her any leads on possible internship placements. The Career Exploration Program has dates scheduled for the fall for tours for the freshman class. There is also a meeting schedule with Vital Link to possibly use their Mock Interview career program. Scholarship recipients will have to go a seminar to talk about the responsibility they have as a student to do well, and to honor the resources that they were given to go to school. Norah Sarsour, Director of Alumni Success, has established an Ambassador program for 34 Alumni to be the ambassador at their College/University and provide support for other alumni at their specific school. They will receive training and it is intended to provide a piece of familiarity at their new school. The Alumni website is running, and summer events are posted.

6. Compliance Calendar

The date for the Survey Results review has to be updated on the Compliance Calendar since Richard stated he will not be present until August.

7. Closed Session- Head of School Evaluation

A motion was made and seconded to discuss in closed session the Evaluation of Anthony Saba, Head of School. Motion was made to return from closed session and there were no conclusions made during closed session only input.

8. New Business

Nicole opened the floor to new business. No new business to report.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Nicole Washington, seconded by Richard Arum and carried to adjourn the Tuesday, June 20, 2017 Academic Committee meeting at 5:27 pm.

The next Samueli Academy Academic Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2017.