

Re: Follow up on yesterday's message

From: Long, Ray <raylong@ccusd.org>

Thu, Nov 10, 2022 at 4:04 PM PST (GMT-08:00)

To: Steven Levin <stevenlevin@ccusd.org>

Thanks Steve.

First, definitely appreciate our conversation yesterday. Secondly, it might be a good idea (although I know your time is limited) to sit down HS Admin and District Admin with the board (or part of it due to Brown) to explain this. Those are valid concerns

Ray Long
CCFT President
US History Teacher
Culver City High School

On Wed, Nov 9, 2022 at 2:07 PM Steven Levin <stevenlevin@ccusd.org> wrote:

Hi Ray,

The board did not see a draft of the statement before it went out. As I told you on the phone, I asked for a public statement about this issue, but what was sent out did match up to what I asked for.

I don't think anyone in admin or on the board is giving in to the demands for tracking. To me, the problem is that we have received very conflicting stories about why the longstanding honors courses were not UC-approved:

- 1) I have not yet seen CCHS admin give any reason at all, or indeed even acknowledge the question.
- 2) You have just said that the courses and/or open enrollment policy would have to be changed if we wanted to meet UC requirements. You're the first person to say that to me, and I have not heard anyone say it publicly.
- 3) Other people have said they were told that it's just some paperwork which UC requires, that the high school has accidentally neglected to fill out. I'm told this story came from Kelli Tarvyd, but I do not have it first hand.
- 4) Still other people have said that CCHS deliberately chose, a decade ago, not to request UC approval because they wanted to encourage students to take AP classes. This story was also attributed to Kelli, and again I do not have it first hand.

I don't actually have a strong reaction to any of those possible explanations. However, as a parent and as a (almost former) board member, I am quite angry that we are being stonewalled about what happened and why. In the 9 years that I have been a parent at CCHS, I have been told several times by CCHS counselors and admin that the honors courses do not count for an extra grade point. Not once did any of those people mention or imply that honors courses at other high schools do get an extra grade point from UC. We were given the impression that UC adds points for AP, but not for honors classes. I've been to multiple orientations and meetings with counselors and public discussions about UC admissions and honors classes. The first time I heard anything at all suggesting that students at other schools do get a GPA boost from honors classes was a couple of months ago from a parent on Facebook. Since that time, multiple people have been asking about this, both publicly and privately. If not applying for the UC approval was a deliberate decision by admin, then someone needs to own it and publicly explain why it was (and perhaps still is) a good idea. If it's a professional decision based on teachers' expertise, then admin needs to say that, and publicly support the teachers. If it was a mistake (which is what is sort of implied by the email that went out), then someone needs to publicly say that, and promise to correct it. If no one has yet figured out why CCHS didn't seek UC approval for the honors classes, then someone needs to publicly admit that and promise to look into whether or not to apply for UC approval now. What is happening now looks very much like people are circling the wagons, trying to keep any "outsider" from finding out the truth, because they're not willing to stand up in public and straightforwardly explain their decisions.

And by the way, it seems to me that if the current courses do not qualify for UC approval as honors course, and the professionals don't think it's a good idea to change them so that they will qualify, then the logical conclusion is we should stop labelling them as "honors".

-Steve

On Nov 9, 2022 313, at 12:36 PM, Long, Ray <raylong@ccusd.org> wrote:

Hello all,

First, I am still waiting for a response from Board of Education members if you had authorized the email sent yesterday around honors and GPA. I have heard back from one member so far. Please email separately to avoid issues around Brown.

Second, I want to stress again how problematic yesterday's message was:.

1. UC does NOT give a GPA point to 9th graders for any honors course, and the UC requires honors courses to have prerequisites, which seems to conflict with the open enrollment of our school: <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/guide/update-your-a-g-list/writing-a-g-courses/>
2. Emailing parents before discussing this with teachers or who do the actual work exemplifies professional disrespect. Why does the district continually communicate with parents before any efforts are made with teachers?
3. Not engaging with the union (until it was too late) shows how completely weak and ineffectual our labor-management partnership has become
4. Suggesting staff (which included CCFT unit members) would be working on changing course descriptions to fit UC guidelines would be an unfair labor practice. This needs to be immediately changed in writing to reflect this work will be done by Administration. We have informed our members not to engage in this work until it has been bargained.
5. It appears CCUSD is **yet again** giving into a small but very vocal minority around the honors issue. If you believe what the English department did was the right course of action for our students, then stand by it!

I look forward to hearing your responses

Ray Long
CCFT President
US History Teacher
Culver City High School
