

USI School of Business
Accounting Circle
Minutes of September 17, 2003

Members Present: Teresa Bradley, Don Breivogel, Steve Byelick, Daryl Dassel, Steve Farrell, Jacqueline Kerwin, Steve Mudd, Greg Newman, Jeanne Oakes, Dave Papariella, Brad Rust, Bob Smith, Darryl Spurlock, Connie Wellmeyer, Larry Whiteside, Jeff Wilmes and Marvin Wright,

Ex-officio Nancy Bizal, Gene Klippel, Dan Wade

Members Absent: Tim McGuire, Don Spring

Faculty Present: Craig Ehlen, Mehmet Kocakulah, Brett Long, Jeanette Maier-Lytle, Les Nunn, Ashraf Khallaf, Stephen Shanklin and Brian McGuire

Guest Present: Gary Bolinger, Scott Reed and Carrie Whitcomb

Welcome and Introduction

Bob Smith called the meeting to order and introduced Dean Klippel, and the new accounting faculty: Ashraf Khallaf and Stephen Shanklin to the Accounting Circle.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as distributed.

Practice/Education Interaction Committee

Teresa Bradley explained the celebration festivities following the meeting. Teresa along with Jackie Wellmeyer and Brad Rust have the students as their primary focus for the event.

Bradley reported that the faculty internships should be finalized in the next two weeks.

Bradley reported that Marvin Wright, Steven Farrell, Steve Mudd, Jackie Kerwin, and Connie Wellmeyer will be participating in the "Accountants in the Classroom" program.

Curriculum Committee

Jeff Wilmes reviewed the curriculum committee report which is in the meeting packet. Attention was called to the report that suggests critiquing all classes in detail to see if they match up with core competencies and those of businesses.

Gene Klippel announced the formation of the Strategic Committee and the Committee to work towards the AACSB revised standards. He praised the Accounting Circle's continued contributions to the accounting program.

Accounting Program Chair Report

Dan Wade reviewed the Accounting Circle financial report which is included in the meeting packet.

Wade also reviewed enrollment in the accounting program at the undergraduate and graduate level. He mentioned marketing the undergraduate level program in different ways; perhaps, at the high school level or more contact with college students as freshmen. He also asked for ideas from all to make the programs more attractive. A suggestion to market the MSA as CPA testing requirements was made.

Wade thanked the Circle members for their contributions. He noted the Circle as a participating group and it is a learning experience for all.

“After Accreditation—Now What?” Brainstorming

Smith thanked everyone for his or her participation and “fulfilling the need.” He recommended Toastmasters as an excellent opportunity to know the students. He opened the floor to thoughts for goals for next year. He suggested a mentoring program at no cost to either side to help students make career decisions.

Darryl Spurlock suggested that Circle members open firm training sessions to faculty and encouraged co-authoring articles with faculty member.

Marvin Wright said that it seems that the burden of MSA enrollment is on the Accounting firms while interviewing. He suggested earlier faculty interaction with the student. Also, Career Services could tell the student what the accounting firms want to hear. He wondered if the MSA and Bachelors degree could be shortened.

Nancy Bizal explained that the Career Planning and Professional Development course focuses on resume interviewing skills.

Wilmes mentioned revisiting the MSA program to evaluate the graduate needs.

Klippel suggested focusing on student groups to find out why they did or did not chose the MSA program.

Carrie Whitcomb, 2003-2004 MSA Scholarship recipient reflected on her MSA experience, and said that it was difficult to switch from all day classes as an undergraduate to all night classes in the MSA program.

Scott Reed, Accounting Club President said some choose money over education. Accounting firms may encourage students with the prospect of employment or reimbursement for MSA degree. He also said that the scholarships are excellent.

Wright wants to hear the equivalent message as the students. When he is interviewing, he wants to hire the best person for the job and not hold a graduate degree over the candidate's head and drive that candidate to the competing firms. He suggested an information sheet from the Circle showing why the MSA is important.

Wright also suggested targeting freshmen by allowing better students into Acct 201 as freshmen.

Smith suggested coming up with some ideas for an MSA scholarship fundraiser.

Wade wondered about a golf scramble or another annual event. An annual accounting newsletter would market the program also. He also suggested considering putting the MSA online.

Don Breivogel suggested surveying the employers to see if they are willing to pay more for an MSA graduate.

Wade encouraged the committees to meet early in the semester to provide base of thoughts for improvements and improvements.

Wright suggested including faculty information on the Accounting Circle Membership list.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45.