

USI School of Business  
Accounting Circle  
Minutes of Meeting BKD, LLP  
April 28, 2004

Members Present: Stephen Byelick, Daryl Dassel, Steven Farrell, Jacqueline Kerwin, Steven Mudd, David Papariella, Bradley Rust, Bob Smith, Rob Wedding, Jeff Wilmes and Marvin Wright

Ex-officio: Nancy Bizal, Gene Klippel and Dan Wade

Members Absent: Teresa Bradley, Donald Breivogel, Tim McGuire, Gregory Newman, Jeanne Oakes, Donald Spring, Darryl Spurlock, Connie Wellmeyer, Larry Whiteside

Faculty Present: Craig Ehlen, Mehmet Kocakulah, Brett Long, Jeanette Maier-Lytle, Brian McGuire

Student Guests Present: Emily Campbell, Katie Russell, and Carrie Whitcomb

Welcome and Introductions:

*Chair Bob Smith* called the meeting to order, asked everyone to introduce themselves, and invited student guests to speak.

*Katie Russell* earned her bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration from WKU and a Post Baccalaureate in Professional Accounting degree from the USI and is now working on her Master of Science in Accounting at USI. Katie spoke about how her experience at USI is most beneficial because of the Accounting Circle. It gave her opportunities to meet with professionals who are approachable; and their interaction gave her exposure to the real accounting world. As the 2004-2005, MSA Scholarship recipient, she is so grateful. She declared the Accounting Circle's role sets USI apart from other schools.

*Emily Campbell*, 2004 accounting graduate expressed her honor to have the opportunity to tell the Accounting Circle how important it is to her and other accounting students. The Accounting Circle has benefited her in many ways: helping with the AACSB accreditation, in-class visits to Accounting 202 classes, Toastmasters, the accounting celebration, and winning a lunch with an accounting circle member, Daryl Spurlock. She also has enjoyed a coop with GE and an internship with Gaither Rutherford & Co. She relayed some suggestions from fellow students to continue the High School luncheon, the Circle celebration, and lunch with a Circle member.

She wants the Circle to influence the next generation of students the way she has been influenced.

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as distributed.

#### Chair of the Accounting Circle

*Bob Smith* acknowledged the Circle's participation, over the last year. He said the participation with the MSA scholarship, learning skills, Toastmasters, accounting celebration, to name a few, will continue to make a difference and set USI apart.

Nominating Committee: The nominating Committee recommendations were accepted.

The Chair-elect nominee:

Marvin Wright                      Wright Consultants, LLC

The Membership Committee recommends the following members be renewed for a second three-year term:

Darryl Dassel                      Clem Dassel Company  
Steve Mudd                         Riney Hancock & Co., PSC

The Membership Committee recommends the following members who have served two full terms be granted associate status:

Steve Farrell                      Gaither Rutherford & Co., LLP  
Darryl Spurlock                  Umbach & Associates, LLP

New member nominees:

Rebecca Alcorn                  Gaither Rutherford & Co., LLP  
Michael Haynes                  Umbach & Associates, LLP  
Sally Joest                         Harding, Shymanski & Co., P.S.C.  
Terri Swan                         GE Advanced Materials  
Robert Wedding                  BKD, LLP

#### Practice/Education Interaction Committee

Volunteers were solicited:

The Celebration will be September 15, 2004; chairs for the occasion will be Jacqueline Kerwin and Jeanette Meier-Lytle.

A game called "Back at cha" and a presentation for outstanding Accounting Alumni were suggested for the celebration.

High School Day on campus is November 15, 2004; Connie Wellmeyer and Steve Farrell will coordinate this event and asked for volunteers to help. Several speakers and fun are planned for the students.

*Marvin Wright* recommended that the Circle plan a CPE Conference on campus for fall 2005. A committee is needed to solicit ideas. We could raise money for speakers and the Master program. CPA, AC, and USI could all benefit. Students could serve as the hospitality group.

*Wright* volunteered to lead the effort of a Golf Scramble to be held possibly in the spring of 2005, as a way to raise money for the scholarship fund. Companies would sponsor a hole; we could include luncheon or dinner. We have a lot of interest-- when will be determined.

*Dan Wade* praised the accountants in the classroom program as did *Jeanette Meier-Lytle*; she thanked the Circle members for their leadership in the classroom.

*Wade* also expressed appreciation of the accountants' interest with the "Speaking Eagles."

*Steven Mudd* said that he will continue with the Faculty Internship program.

#### Curriculum Committee

*Jeff Wilmes* noted the AACSB requirements are enclosed in the meeting packet. The committee has been working with faculty and will wait to see the School of Business outcome. We will determine how to assess performances and continue improvement. *Larry Whiteside* will be chair of the committee for 2004-2005.

*Smith* expressed interest in looking at the MSA to see how it is being utilized in the public and private sectors. High quality students have a lot to offer; and we need to embellish that for the benefit of the profession.

#### Chair of the Accounting Department Report

*Wade* gave a financial report which is included in the meeting packet and reminded everyone that the dues statement was also included.

\$100.00 Accounting Circle Fund

\$100.00 MSA Scholarship

*Wade* thanked the Accounting Circle for their continued support on behalf of the School of Business and the Accounting faculty.

*Wade* gave a brief summary of the MSA program which is included in the meeting packet. The enrollment is progressing; we have a small number of students using MSA to change professions. When AACSB Accounting Accreditation was acquired, we said we would wait three to four years to see how the redesigned undergraduate program would affect the MSA enrollment. In a couple of more years we will be able to see the results clearly. The new undergraduate program does not completely prep students for the CPA exam. This will bring more interest in the MSA

*Wade* announced that obtaining a charter of Beta Alpha PSI was a recommendation of the AACSB visitation group. Our students have prepared a petition and sent it to start the process. Fall 2004 will be the first of three reporting semesters and then the Charter will be installed in the fourth semester.

*Wade* also reviewed the Learning Skills Outcome report to the APS program that is enclosed in the meeting packet. He sought input and advice from Accounting Circle.

*Smith* asked the Circle to review the Learning Skills Outcome document and give suggestion to assure professional goals are met.

Further discussion by the Circle led to some ideas to include in the assessment areas such as communication, technology, ethical perspectives, and laws and regulations (since they always change, it is good for them to be addressed.) After the School of Business assessment is completed, ours may change with that. Students could keep a portfolio that shows they have the desirable skills. Faculty can also utilize the assessment outcome for their own use.

*Gene Klippel* mentioned that AACSB wants more than grades; they want results of the assessment and how it is used to improve.

*Brian McGuire* presented a survey "What makes MSA students more valuable to you" for the Accounting Circle to critique to make sure the correct questions are being asked to provide the necessary information. This would be sent to HR people. Please e-mail suggestions to [bmcguire@usi.edu](mailto:bmcguire@usi.edu).

*Wilmes* suggested that perhaps focus groups could assist in providing hiring decisions based on specific needs.

#### Recognition of 2003-2004 Chair

*Wade* presented an engraved plaque in gratitude to Bob Smith for a wonderful job and his guidance and leadership as the 2003-2004 Accounting Circle chair.

#### Announcements

*Wade* announced that he would be stepping down as Chair of the Accounting Programs in August. He said that the students continue to be a highlight, and he will be able to devote more time to them. The Accounting Circle has been a wonderful experience during his administration. The working relationships have made it better for the students.

*Klippel* said that we owe a great deal to Dan Wade for his role in gaining separate AACSB Accounting Accreditation and for the relationship with the Accounting Circle. His relationships with the alumni and students speak for themselves.

*Klippel* announced that he will name a replacement before the spring semester ends. Plans are to name a chair and an MSA director. The separation will add focus but still be collaborative. He thanked the Circle for its support; the School and students appreciate it.

*Smith* said the Dan Wade has been an inspiration to him personally and professionally, and he values that very much.

#### Adjournment

*Jeff Wilmes* first duty as chair was to adjourn the meeting.