

**USI COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
ACCOUNTING CIRCLE MEETINGMINUTES  
NOVEMBER 12, 2008**

**Members Present:** Tonya Borders, Michael Haynes, Kevin Hammett, Sally Joest, Darryl Spurlock, Connie Wellmeyer, Jeff Wilmes, Larry Whiteside, Marv Wright

**Ex-officio Members Present:** Nancy Bizal, Mohammed Khayum, Les Nunn.

**Young Professionals Present:** Derek Adams, Kim Kinnaman, Allison Menke, Lindsay Schmitt, Kyle Wanniger

**Faculty Present:** Craig Ehlen, Debra Hunter, Brett Long, Jeanette Maier-Lytle, Brian McGuire, Les Nunn, Stephen Shanklin, Dan Wade

**Students Present:** Andrew Dill, Brad Greene, Ashley Hancock, Amy Oglesby, Scott Roberts, Emily Shetler, David Ubelhor

**Administrative Associate Present:** Linda Dillbeck

**Members Absent:** Rebecca Alcorn, David Armstrong, Don Breivogel, Mike Carroll, Deidra Conner, Daryl Dassel, Steve Farrell, Kerry Jackson, Mike Klueh, Tim McGuire, Steve Mudd, Greg Newman, Jana Pottorff, Bob Smith, Terri Swan, Liv Watson, Rob Wedding.

**Welcome and Self Introductions:** Chair **Sally Joest** welcomed all to the Fall Accounting Circle meeting and introduced the Young Professional Group. **Accounting and Business Law Department Chair Les Nunn** began the meeting with self introductions.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the May 5, 2008 meeting were approved as distributed.

**Accounting and Business Law Chair's Report:**

**New Faculty and Recruitment:** Nunn introduced new accounting faculty member **Debra Hunt**. He discussed the challenges of attracting Ph.D. accounting professors; the market is tight and salary is an issue. The department has two faculty positions open.

**Faculty Activities:** **Dan Wade** will do an internship in the spring with Kemper CPA Group.

**Student Enrollment:** Accounting student enrollment is growing with 409 accounting students this semester.

**Financial Report:** The financial report was in the meeting folders.

**Accounting and Business Law Chair's Report Continued:**

**Skills Questionnaire:** Nunn asked the Circle members to fill out the questionnaire in the meeting folder regarding hard and soft skills employers need accounting graduates to have. The results will help tell us if the College is preparing students well for accounting careers.

**Student Competitions:** Jeanette Maier-Lytle introduced the 2008 first-place Indiana CPA Society Case Study Team: **David Ubelhor, Ashley Hancock, Scott Roberts, and Brad Greene.** A USI team has won this award five years in a row. This year's topic was "Build a CPA Firm for the Future." Team members briefly discussed the process for preparing for the competition, the competition, and the thrill of the win. **Maier-Lytle** spoke about the skills of the team and the three judges' ratings—73%, 92%, and 94%-- and declared the USI teams have increased the standard.

**Maier-Lytle** invited **Brian McGuire** to introduce the first-place USI's Institute of Management Accountants Team: **Andy Dill, Brad Greene, Amy Oglesby and Angela King.** **King** was unable to attend. The first round of this competition requires the teams to produce a video. From the video entries, four finalist teams are chosen. The finalists then compete live, this year was in Tampa, Florida. USI has been named finalists three years in a row; this team is the first USI team to win this competition. Team members reflected on the preparation process and the great feeling of accomplishment. **McGuire** forecasted that USI may have a second IMA team next year.

**Maier-Lytle** thanked Kemper CPA Group for assuming the role of judges, asking questions, and giving feedback. She added that next year a USI team may compete in an international competition. All agree that the competition topics and experiences have added to the team members' knowledge and skills.

**Breakout Sessions for the Committee to Solidify Reports and Plan Next Steps**

**Accounting Circle Chair's Report:** Joest called on the Practice/Education Interaction sub-committee chairs to make their reports.

**Golf Scramble:** **Marv Wright** reported the Golf Scramble was successful and enjoyed by all. Companies and firms sponsor a hole and/or a foursome; the goal is to have two professionals and two accounting students per team. The proceeds go to scholarships the Accounting Circle has established: the Dan Wade Scholarship and the Roxy Baas Memorial Scholarship. A golf committee will form in spring, 2009.

**High School Day:** Joest gave the following report: High School Day was held on Halloween this year which may have brought about the lower attendance than in the past. The itinerary for the day was a panel discussion about the many career options

accountants have; an accounting jeopardy; student presentations by Beta Alpha Psi, Accounting and Financial Services Club, and Toastmasters; and ended with lunch. High School Day is a project of the Circle, College, and Admission.

*Linda, next on my notes is the following: “Career Services—how to apply to college, Good Event”*

**Faculty Internships:** **Dan Wade** will intern with Kemper CPA Group in the spring.

**Student Internships:** **Nunn** summarized the intern/co-op report; a paper report will be attached to the minutes. **Linda, we will have to remember to do this.**

**Extravaganza:** **Young Professional Kim Kinnaman** reported the goals of this project is to attract more students to the field of accounting, to offer a networking opportunity for students and the Circle members, and expose students to the career opportunities accountants have. Three panelists will discuss their career paths: **Larry Whiteside** from Mead Johnson, **Connie Wellmeyer** from Toyota, and **Joe Meyer** from BKD. **Linda I don't know about Meyer spelling.**

**Young Professionals:** **Joest** praised the Young Professionals for their leadership of this year's Extravaganza and for their good ideas; additional members will be recruited in the spring. The game for the 2009 Extravaganza may be “Are You Smarter than a CPA?” **McGuire** thanked **Joest** and the Circle on behalf of the faculty.

**Academic Relations Committee:** **Committee Chair Mike Haynes** called on representatives of the sub-committees to report.

**Accountants in the Classroom:** **Maier-Lytle** reviewed the Accountants in the Classroom purpose: to market the accounting major to students. Since 1999 a public-and private-accountant pair has participated the Accounting 201 course three times a semester. They discuss how they use in their careers the topics the students are studying and give a brief history of their own careers. **Maier-Lytle** thanked the pairs who are participating this semester: **Marv Wright and \_\_\_\_\_, Darryl Spurlock and Deidre Connor, Mike Carroll and Rob Wedding.** Six participants will be needed in the spring semester to meet with **Maier-Lytle's** MWF 11:00 to 11:50 class and **Mehmet Kocakulah's** TR 9:00 to 10:15 and 10:30 to 11:45 classes. She encouraged Circle members to volunteer. Young Professionals are welcome to join in this program.

**CPE Day** is still being investigated.

**Screaming Eagles Toastmasters:** **Wade and Emily Shetler** thanked the Circle for supporting the campus Toastmasters by financially supporting it and by attending the meetings. Circle members' attendance sends the message to the students that public speaking is important. Screaming Eagles Toastmasters is successful and is growing. **Larry Whiteside** and **Haynes** added that it is fun. **Nunn** will be the faculty adviser during **Wade's** internship in the spring.

**Beta Alpha Psi: Emily Shetler** reported an increase in membership, close to 50 members at this time. BAP members hope to go to the regional meeting in Indianapolis and to send the officers to the national meeting in New York. **Shetler** expressed gratitude to the Circle members who participated in the CPA Day of Service and for coming to the weekly meetings. The Chapter has a rating of Superior and now they are “Going for the Gold.” The Chapter is considering an activity at the end of the spring semester called “Meet the Firms”.

**Accounting and Professional Service Club: Tyler Showalter** reported that the Club and BAP are slightly different—no fees for the Club—and the meet together. He reported that three members attended the IMA Leadership Institute this semester. The Club has plans to start a Speed Interviewing event in the fall of 2009 and hopes the Circle will be involved when the time is right.

**Dean’s Remarks: Mohammed Khayum** thanked the Accounting and Business Law Department for supporting **Nunn** for the Chair position and thanked the Circle for its involvement. He noted that other departments and boards are trying to copy the successes. He announced the Board of Advisors is considering a BOA Day at the COB in the spring. **Khayum** reported the accounting student successes have resulted in accounting firms who had not previously recruited on our campus are doing so now—that is the best measure of success. Accounting student successes is how the College is known. The College has applied for State Grants, the College and the Engineering Department are doing internships together, and the College has applied for a Federal Grant having to do with innovation. He stated the College is looking into sending students to international competitions which will involve some costs. **Maier-Lytle** is exploring the possibilities. **Khayum** listed possible new directions: The College will do more to share our knowledge with the community and across campus; a good example of this is the Liberal Arts College sponsored a public panel on the economic crisis. Several of our faculty members are on the panel. Opportunities to make use of our expertise are plentiful.

**Next Steps: Joest** reminded members to fill our Information Sheet in the meeting folder. **Nunn** asked members to fill out the skills survey. **Maier-Lytle**, who will teach an honors course in the spring, requested members to suggest a live project for the honor students.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned to Accounting Extravaganza. The agenda for the Extravaganza is attached to the meeting minutes.