

**USI SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
IT ALLIANCE MEETING
Minutes of June 8, 2004 Meeting, 12:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Dick Arneson, Atlas; James Derk, GE Plastics; Susan Everett, Keller Crescent; Phil Lieberman, The Lieberman Group; Larry May, Keller Schroeder; Mike Neeley, Deaconess; Jerry Peters, Harding Shymanski; David Smith, CMC

Ex Officio Members Present: Marv Albin, USI; Nancy Bizal, USI; Gene Klippel, USI

Members Absent: Dan Bugher, Vectren

Students Present: John Russell, Jason Smith

Faculty Present: Scott Anderson, Sharlott Gillard, Bill Henderson, Bruce Mabis, Jennifer Williams

Welcome: Phil Lieberman, also a member of the USI School of Business Board of Advisors, served as chair of the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 12:40 and welcomed the group assembled. He provided a summary of the four major roles of the Board of Advisors: faculty interaction, introductions for fundraising, opportunities for students, and advice to the School.

Self Introductions for Networking Purposes: Everyone gave an autobiographical professional sketch which allowed the group to become better acquainted.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 22, 2004 Organizational Meeting were approved as distributed.

Adoption of By-laws: The by-laws were adopted as presented. A Nominating Committee consisting of Jim Derk, Phil Lieberman, Larry May, Marv Albin, and Nancy Bizal was formed for the purpose of nominating a chair and chair elect to be elected at the Fall IT Alliance meeting and to produce a slate of at least three additional members to bring the membership to twelve. Charter members' terms will be one year, two years, and three years, assigned arbitrarily by alphabet to establish a staggered term-ending cycle. A term less than three years will not count as a full term and will not affect a member's ability to serve two full terms.

Review of Purposes and Goals: A wide range of discussion followed which in essence affirmed the proposed purposes and goals:

--Site visits for faculty—Big changes have taken place, faculty need to see IT at work

--Curriculum—Interested in seeing actual courses beyond the syllabi—what do students know; need to take hard look at curriculum

--Grades—Need to set standards high; a C average is not who we hire. (Business classes plus major now must have a 2.2. There has been some discussion about raising that in the School. In a state supported school numbers count and credit hours are the key. When instituted calculus requirement, that produced a 10% loss in credit hours as would a raise in the grade point requirement but still probably a good idea. (Bill Henderson, assistant dean, tells parents and incoming students that the difference between 2.5 and 3.0 is about \$10,000 a year.) Jason Smith noted that students will try as hard as required.

--Providing for Business Needs—Students can volunteer to help with IT (every church in town needs IT help); care about other things besides self; need to really learn to communicate when dealing with people who do not understand IT

--Internships and Co-ops—Larry May stated, “of all my undergraduate experiences, I learned the most from my co-op”; opportunity to deal with brain drain; GE needs now and five years ago are quite different—a GE management track and a GE technical track--now 90% coders are in India or China and in those countries Ph.D. programmers are happy for \$5000/year jobs—GE also has a group of programmers in Evansville who are GE consultants but not employees

--Project Management—need to be able to do this; interpersonal relationships are critically important; need to teach value of presentations and self-marketing

--Class Interaction—professional coming to classroom is a great experience for students and professionals, i.e., Accounting Circle program entitled “Accountants in the Classroom”

--Student Tours—students like tours (John Russell asked if student organizations could look to members for tours); do not get trapped in wall of academia

Prioritization of Purposes and Goals: Curriculum direction will happen. Marv Albin distributed handouts to start the process and will call a curriculum meeting this summer to which IT Alliance members will be invited. A list serve will happen. James Derk invited faculty for a GE tour. Flex of quality control will be addressed.

What My Company and I Want in a Fresh Hire: Lieberman distributed a list of employment traits The Lieberman Group looks for in a fresh hire. He invited members to do the same so that a document can be created to provide students a career counseling guide.

Announcement: Albin announced that he is stepping down from the chair position of the ISBE department but will continue to serve as the contact person for the IT Alliance.

Next Steps: Nancy Bizal will organize a nominating committee meeting and solicited nominations for addition IT Alliance members. The next meeting will be in the fall on campus.

Adjournment to Tour of the School of Business