

**USI COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
IT ALLIANCE MEEETING MINUTES
October 25, 2005**

Members Present: Dick Arneson, Dan Bugher, James Derk, Amy Drake, Derek Faughn, Phil Lieberman, Larry May, Dave Smith, David Yoak

Ex-Officio Members Present: Mark Albin, Nancy Bizal, Mohammed Khayum, Joy Peluchette

Faculty Present: Scott Anderson, Abbey Foroughi, Bill Henderson, Bruce Mabis

Student Present: Hunter Nance

Guest Speaker: Steve Farrell

Members Absent: Susan Everett, Krista McDivitt, Mike Neeley, Jerry Peters, Michael Russ

Welcome and Self-Introductions: Chair Larry May called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the Fall Meeting. He noted that a copy of the updated bylaws is in the meeting packet; the updating pertained to changing the School of Business to the College of Business.

Members, faculty, and student introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the April 12, 2005 meeting were approved as distributed.

Acting Dean's Remarks: Acting Dean Mohammed Khayum reported that the dean's search is underway and the plan is to announce who the new dean will be early next year. He stated the College will move ahead in regard to the strategic plan and re-accreditation. He told the Alliance members the College will be judged on how well we meet our goals and that the Alliance can act as external reviewers regarding how well the College is doing what we say we are doing and want to do—see vision, mission, strategic plan, and time line in the meeting packet. Khayum thanked the members for giving the College their time, expertise, and help specifically in the area of IT and globally for the College.

New Department Configuration and Department Update: Joy Peluchette, Chair of the Management, Management Information Systems, and Applied Computer Science Department, spoke about the new department configuration. She discussed the enrollment in the IT area and the College overall and indicated that other peer schools in the Midwest were experiencing the same enrollment trends—see meeting packet handout on enrollment. She stated she looked forward to working with the Alliance, fine tuning the curriculum, and marketing the programs.

A discussion ensued about what Alliance members were looking for in new hires. Various businesses are looking for different things; however, all value business savvy and technology.

E/M Training Report: Abbey Foroughi, Professor of Information Systems, reported on the E/M training for faculty held in September—see meeting packet for the report. Foroughi was instrumental in obtaining a SBC grant to support this training.

Program Update: Marv Albin discussed the proposed course changes—see meeting packet. His report stimulated a discussion about the needs of IT employers: leadership in this area with vision and understanding for vibrant communication, technical competence and the ability to instruct, project management, web integration, live projects instead of case studies (College wants to interface but must be sure we can deliver—number of students, talent pool, sustainability, oversight from faculty, course alignment), inside of computers only relevant to consulting firms who are the outsource providers—only need to spend a couple of classes on this, game systems might be useful and enjoyable, CIS boot camp, analytical ability to translate business concepts to deliver—need softer skills. The Alliance suggested they may need the syllabi to advise faculty regarding course content. Albin responded that the changes are in the developmental stages. Faughn suggested that whole group needs to discuss this, not just the ad hoc curriculum committee. Syllabi can be made available.

Retention issues—tension between retention of the right students and quantity--were discussed.

Scholarship and Other Accounting Circle Programs: Steve Farrell, Accounting Circle member and past Circle chair, discussed the Accounting Circle's Dan Wade Accounting Scholarship. It is funded by member donations and by the recent Golf Scramble. The scholarship fund is at about \$6000, on its way to being endowed at \$10,000. The Circle has award three \$500 scholarships; faculty members serve as the selection committee.

Farrell also discussed the Accountants in the Classroom program and the Circle's Toastmasters sponsorship for USI students.

Next Steps: May recapped and suggested a follow-up plan:

1. Education/Curriculum Committee: Jim Derk, Amy Drake, Derek Faughn, and David Yoak have already been appointed to this committee. (Faughn suggested this topic should be discussed by whole group.) May noted this group has passion and the College Department may have to temper them. The committee needs to spend some time to gain greater detail and then react and then present to whole group from academic and practitioner's points of view. Yoak was asked to be sure the group meets and reports back.
2. Interaction/Education Committee: This committee needs to discuss projects: IT Professionals in the Classroom, Site Visits, Job Shadowing, and Mentoring. The

committee needs to meet between now and March. Dick Arneson was appointed chair. Dave Smith and Dan Bugher volunteered and were appointed to the committee. Abbey Foroughi will serve as faculty member on the committee.

3. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee made up of Acting Past Chair Phil Lieberman, Current Chair Larry May, and Chair Elect Jim Derk and ex officio members Department Chair Joy Peluchette and Coordinator of External Relations Nancy Bizal will meet in late January.

These questions were asked: Are we a sounding board or a working committee?

_____ Will ACS be addressed by the curriculum committee? Yes.

Adjournment: Larry May adjourned the meeting by announcing: We have a plan of action. He thanked everyone for their reflections.