

**USI COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
IT ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES
MAY 28, 2008**

Members Present: Chris Boeke, James Derk, Susanne Everett, Derek Faughn, Pat Fleck, James Kloosterman, Alan Letterman, Larry May, Mark Neidig, Martin Roth, Dave Smith, and David Yoak

Ex-officio Members Present: Nancy Bizal, Abbey Foroughi, and Mohammed Khayum

Faculty Present: Scott Anderson, Bill Henderson, and Ernie Nolan

Students Present: Jeremy Dunn, James Gosnell, Cory Huebner, Josh Quirey, and Jonathon Williams

Members Absent: Terry Clements, Amy Drake, Pat Heck, Scott Krodel, Bruce Lane, Rex Masterson, Krista McDivitt, Mike Neeley, Mike Russ, and David Stefanich

Ex-officio Members Absent: Carl Chapman

Welcome: **Chair Derek Faughn** welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes: The January 23 minutes were approved as distributed.

Chair-elect Election: The Executive Committee nominated and the membership elected **Susan Everett** as chair-elect.

Bylaw Change: **Faughn** announced the bylaw change to Section 3, Article 2, raising the total possible number of members from 20 to 25 had been approved by electronic vote prior to the meeting.

Renewal of Memberships: On behalf of the Executive Committee **Faughn** recommended that **Amy Drake, Mike Neeley, and David Yoak** be elected to another three-year term. **CARRIED.** **Dan Bugher** and **Mark Freeman** have resigned.

New Members: **Faughn** announced **Chris Boeke** from Vectren, **Pat Fleck** from SABIC, **Alan Letterman** from Berry Plastics, **Rex Masterson** from SABIC, and **David Stefanich** from Accuride had been nominated and elected via electronic vote prior to the meeting.

Self Introductions: All introduced themselves; the new members present were asked to give a brief biographical sketch.

IT Alliance Chair's Remark: **Faughn** stated the 2007-2008 goal was to focus more on faculty involvement with all committees having a faculty co-chair; the focus has a good start, but there is more to do.

AACSB Re-accreditation: **Larry May** reported on the February dinner meeting he and **Faughn** attended with the AACSB Visitation Team; representatives from the IT Alliance, Accounting Circle, and Board of Advisors were present. The Team provided a good understanding of the role of advisory boards and noted things boards could do for the students and faculty, including creative faculty pay, i.e., endowments and stipends, compensated research projects. The Team stated College of Business faculty are not competitively paid in comparison to other business schools. **Mohammed Khayum** remarked how very important the Team's meeting with the various boards was; the Team was very impressed with the boards' engagement, knowledge, and activity. Other business schools' boards tend to be funding sources but do not do much of what we do—one of our strengths.

Assessment Learning Tools: **Khayum** reported that higher education is into documenting activities, ratios, budgets, etc. In 2003 AACSB shifted from the input to the output side of education; in other words, what do we want our graduates to have regardless of their majors. We identified seven skill areas and mastery of knowledge in their disciplines. When we survey employers, communication skills always are at the top as well as the ability to understand layers of organizations. The challenge is how do we know these things have been mastered; our approach was to create some grids (rubrics). He referred to the oral communication rubrics in the folder and announced that the ITA would be asked to use the rubrics with the student presentations to come later in the agenda. **Khayum** invited feedback on the viability/usability of the rubrics.

Scholarship Committee: **May** reported the committee met in January and will meet again this summer. IT Scholarships awarded this spring were the Keller Schroeder Scholarship for the second time, the Atlas World Group scholarship for the first time, and the IT Alliance scholarship for the second time. **May** encouraged those in attendance to do what they can do to assist in endowing the IT Alliance Scholarship and noted we have a long way to go. He introduced **Cory Huebner**, this year's recipient, who thanked the Alliance for the scholarship and for the honor. He said the scholarship will help financially. He attributed his teachers for helping him become a good student. He looks forward to graduate school and to becoming a professional. **Foroughi** added the scholarships make students study harder and extended thanks from **Ryan Greelee** (Keller Schroeder Scholarship 2008 recipient) and **Deven Burke** (Atlas World Group Scholarship 2008 recipient) who were unable to attend. **May** concluded that the Alliance can do more, that it is easy to contribute by going online at usi.edu/on-linegiving then pick "other" on the screen to find the ITA Scholarship, and that company-sponsored scholarships are good public relations tools. To establish a company-sponsored scholarship, contact Ginny Bryant in the Foundation office.

Alliance/Student Interaction Committee: **David Smith** referred to the report in the packet and said the committee needs to know when is the best time for its projects to happen.

Alliance/Faculty Interaction Committee: **David Yoak** said this committee needs to become more aggressive to learn how it can add value to the faculty and faculty can better understand the challenges employers face.

Program Vision and Curriculum Committee: **Faughn** thinks the ITA could have some impact and real good interaction.

Survey and Curriculum Topics: He referred to the survey and follow-up (in the packet). He noted that it is easier to adjust course content than curriculum. He listed some things that could happen: special topics, preparation for certification, more proactive for student and possibly faculty internships, identification of a niche, IT auditing. **Scott Anderson** noted that he and **Marv Albin** will do another survey. **Martin Roth** encouraged more proactivity toward internships. **Faughn** said we need to stop thinking about USI as a small regional university as it is a growing important factor in a wide regional area—how aggressive can we be to go after partnership with Cisco, Hewlett Packard, etc.

Foroughi noted the “scholarship of engagement” that is going on in CS and CIS senior projects now that the senior project classes have partnered with the Center for Applied Research which results in students working on real-live projects. He then reviewed the survey and its findings (in the meeting packet).

Anderson provided a CS perspective. **Khayum** added this is just a start and the Alliance has given us some guidance: How well are we doing is the challenge, what do you value is important, is it a list we need to teach about? We need to validate accomplishments. The University has leveled off in enrollment growth. How can we sustain growth, is it certification?

AITP Conference and Competition Successes: **Nolan** referred to #6 in **Foroughi’s** report in the packet. USI AITP students have been competing in the national AITP competition for thirteen years; ten out of thirteen years students have received honorable mention at the minimum and up to first place as the maximum; the competition includes a diverse set of skills, This year fund sources were \$800 from team fundraising, \$2600 from a grant, and \$800 from USI Foundation Club Funds. This year **James Gosnell** scored 69% on the ICPP/ACP exam and earned ACP designation; his score was the second highest score of the 52 students who took the exam. (70% is required for ICPP designation.) **Ryan Greenlee** also earned the ACP designation. In the Application Development competition, **Casey Cambron** and **Jason Nichols** earned Honorable Mention which means they were in the top seven of the fifty-three teams that competed. **Gosnell** said it was a great experience and that he had no idea he was doing so well; he learned what employers want, what is important in IT, and that USI can compete with the big-name schools. He enjoyed the networking and wishes he had joined AITP when he was a freshman. He asked all to encourage students to join AITP. **Yoak** asked why students are not joining. **Nolan** responded, time issue and unaware of value. The goal is for faculty to recommend students to membership so that it becomes an honor. **Nolan** agreed to provide a list of characteristics that make a good AITP member candidate.

CS Senior Project Presentation: **Anderson** noted nine students were enrolled in the class so there were two projects. He then introduced three of five team members and noted four of the five have graduated and are working: **Jeremy Dunn, Josh Quirey, and Jonathon Williams.** (**Jason VanWormer** and **Chris Durski** were unable to attend.)

Quirey thanked the Alliance for the opportunity to present their project: a tracking system for the USI Center for Applied Research. Following the presentation, **Yoak** asked what the team was not prepared for and what would they do differently. The response was that they spent two thirds of the time learning about what the client wanted and then it was easy. They learned that they should be careful with what they promise and the importance of a designated ‘discussion buster.’ They were asked how the system was going to be maintained. **Anderson** said that is being negotiated and that may be a good contract opportunity. **Williams** added the team tried to document well. The team agreed the project was fun and worthwhile.

Faughn encouraged the Alliance to be active and noted the time commitment is maybe sixteen hours a year. He also noted that \$12,000 is not a lot of money to endow the ITA Scholarship and encouraged contributions. He remarked that he was happy to have been chair.

COMMITTEE BREAKOUTS TO PLAN NEXT STEPS: New members were asked to choose a committee.

DEAN’S REMARKS: **Khayum** expressed optimism, noted that the last two years the focus has been on re-accreditation and now the College needs to be looking a broader themes than operations. The University is interested in community engagement/ scholarly community engagement. Next semester **Foroughi** will teach a graduate course with engagement as a central focus to deliver a product that will be of value. **Khayum** referred to a directional change and the challenge of measuring innovation; how do we know we are nimble enough to respond to change. He referred to the seven skills rubrics the College has developed with involvement from the Board of Advisors, invited input from the ITA, and noted the rubrics provides a means for the College and employers to say to students, “this is what we want you to become.” **Khayum** concluded by saying he is excited about the progress of this young advisory board and that in five years the IT field should be the pace setter.

RECOGNITION OF 2007-2008 CHAIR: **Foroughi** thanked all for coming to the meeting and said the Alliance is an inspiration and of benefit to faculty and students. He expressed pride in the students who presented. He praised **Faughn** for his devotion and for his energizing the Alliance, faculty, and students. He presented **Faughn** with a plaque of appreciation.

2008-2009 CHAIR’S REMARKS: **Yoak** expressed appreciation for **Faughn’s** leadership and for re-energizing the committees. The Committee approach will be continued to return value to the students, faculty, and administration. He said, “It is time to get on with business.”

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned to a Meet and Greet Reception.