

MINUTES
BOARD OF VISITORS, SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
APRIL 28, 1999
CARTER HALL
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

PRESENT: David Abbott, Roxy Baas, John Bolger, Alan Brill, Rino Caruccio, Keith Emge, David Gunn, Patrick Harvey, Andrew Hubbard, Thomas Magan, Allen Mounts, James Muehlbauer, Alan Newman, Susie Schrecker, Ken Sendelweck, John Shekell, Marjorie Soyugenc, Richard Stivers, Robert Swan, Vince Vawter, Phil Fisher, and Nancy Bizal

ABSENT: David Carson, James Dodd, Rick Geissinger, Carolyn Georgette, Robert Griffin, Daniel Hermann, Michael Hinton, Jay Kasey, William Koch, James McKinney, Ronald Romain, Pete Ruthenburg, Tom Suter, Al Umbach, and Michael Weber.

ALUMNI PANELISTS: Glenn Barnes, Jr. '95, Jeff Bone '97, Lana Lis '95, Kristin Peerman '96, John Phipps '96, and Erica Roberts '97.

I. Welcome and Introductions – Tom Magan

Tom Magan, Chair of the Board of Visitors, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes as Distributed – Tom Magan

The minutes of November 12, 1999, were approved as mailed.

III. Chair's Report – Tom Magan

The Nominating Committee Report was distributed by mail and at the meeting, recommended Keith Emge as Chair-elect for 1999-2000. Emge was elected unanimously. **The Membership Committee Report** was distributed by mail and again at the meeting and is attached to the official minutes. The report was accepted unanimously. Magan asked John Bolger, Chair of the **Finance Committee** to report. Bolger said the School of Business had a good ten months financially; \$86,409 was raised with \$61,000 in non-restricted funds and \$25,000 restricted. He said we must continue to work together to raise funds for the business school. Keith Emge, Chair of the **Community Interaction Committee**, gave the next report. Emge reported the Focus Groups would start by the end of June. Tom Magan volunteered to lead the first one. The purpose of the focus groups is to discuss consulting needs of the business community and how USI School of Business faculty might fulfill those needs. The role of the faculty is to listen during the group discussions. Susie Schrecker, Chair of the **Academic Affairs Committee** had no report.

IV. Dean's Report – Phil Fisher

The Dean's Report was included in folders that were distributed at the meeting.

Accounting Circle Report – Bob Swan, Chair of the Accounting Circle

Swan reported the business leaders from the community would like to see improvements in communication and problem-solving skills from the accounting graduates. To help with communication skills, a student chapter of Toastmasters Club was started for accounting students – “USI Speaking Eagles”. The Accounting Circle would like to conduct focus groups relating to the graduate program. A faculty internship program of the Accounting Circle has started with Dr. Brett Long as the first faculty member to participate. His tax internship is with Harding Shymanski & Company. Most of the accounting faculty participated in the plant tour of Toyota that was conducted this year for the School of Business and several plant tours are scheduled for next year. Swan said the School of Business listens and pays attention to what we (Accounting Circle and Board of Visitors) has to say. He announced that Dan Hermann will be the Chair and David Gunn Chair-elect of the Accounting Circle for 1999-2000.

MBA Advisory Board – Andy Hubbard, Chair of the MBAAB

The MBA Summary Report was included in the folders distributed at the meeting.

V. Next Steps

Fisher presented Tom Magan with a plaque in appreciation for his leadership as Chair of the Board of Visitors for the year 1998-1999. Chair for 1999-2000, Alan Newman, said he knows he has some “big shoes” to fill but he is looking forward to next year. Newman hopes to break new ground and to keep the Board of Visitors moving forward.

VI. Alumni Panel – Tom Magan, Moderator

Fisher explained the alumni panelists were selected at random from a list that was limited to alumni graduating in 1995, 1996, and 1997 with a GPA of 2.5 or higher and employed in Evansville. Fisher introduced the panelist: Glenn Barnes, Jr., City Finance Officer; Jeff Bone, Old National Bank; Lana Lis, Black Beauty Coal; Kristin Peerman, Red Sport Paint & Varnish; John Phipps, Civitas; and Erica Roberts, rsc – The Quality Measurement Company.

Magan posed questions to the panelists and gave each panelist time to answer.

1. What did you learn at USI that is valuable in your career?

A summary of panelists' answers: openness and accessibility of professors, small-size classes, interpersonal relationships with faculty, teamwork assignments, and learning to learn.

Summary of comments from the BOV: continue to keep in mind our assets as the school grows, continues to hire professors that care about students, and helps students learn to achieve goals on their own.

2. Based on your experience, what changes are needed to make the business school better?

A summary of panelists' answers: writing memos and proposals; time management skills; networking class; web publishing class; hands-on-work or experience via internships, mentors, class projects, or case studies; stronger selling skills; accounting software package; business ethics class; and financial statement interpretation.

Summary of comments from BOV and faculty: accounting students have a class project as well as CIS students in which they prepare invoices, set up internal controls, and prepare proposals. The School of Business recently had a workshop conducted by Dr. William Welty on how to teach case studies in the classroom. MNGT 452 uses case studies, but the case method may work better at the graduate level.

3. What was the faculty's expectation of you?

Summary of the panelists' answers: expectations vary from professor to professor; expectations are not higher than what students could achieve; professors are demanding but will help guide you through, push you to the level you need to be, and show you how to get to next level; professors want you to do the work you are capable of and get the grade you deserve.

VII. Open Discussion

The panel of graduates represents the kind of students the School of Business is turning out. Ideas brought out by the panel discussion are sound and could be implemented by the School of Business. Some skills that could be improved on – selling and communication, project management, and how to evaluate and interpret things. The school will spend time looking at an accounting package for accounting students and an ethics class for business students. The School of Business will continue to consult with the Board of Visitors and alumni to improve programs for business students.

VIII. Announcements

The fall meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 17, 1999 at 3:00 p.m. in Carter Hall.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Dinner followed the meeting.