

**USI Romain College of Business  
Accounting Circle Meeting Minutes  
University Center West Carter Hall  
4:00 p.m., November 20, 2014**

**Members Present:** Becki Alcorn, Tonya Borders, Michael Carroll, Carolyn Dearmond, Kerry Jackson, Deborah Meinert, Steven Mudd, Ann Muehlbauer, Rodney Russell, Rob Wedding, Connie Wellmeyer, Jeff Wilmes, Tracy Zeller

**Members Absent:** Donald Breivogel, Richard Campbell, Randy Haaff, Susan Hardwick, Michael Haynes, Michael Klueh, Tim McGuire, Rod Meyer, Mark Miles, Jana Pottorff Mitchell, Nikki Roser, Nick Rueger, Bill Schotanus, Chris Wolking,

**Young Professionals Present:** Derek Adams, Taylor Atkins, Amanda Bingemer, Bridgitte Danhauer, Kevin Farley, Kyle Fields, Mitch Happe, Kim Kinnaman, Amy Mings, Angela Reckelhoff, Matt Reffett, Kiersten Roberts, Anna Shade, Kelsie Spillman, David Ubelhor, Kyle Waninger

**Ex-officio Members Present:** Nancy Bizal, Brian McGuire, Mark McKnight

**Ex-officio Members Absent:** Bob Keller, Mohammed Khayum

**Faculty Present:** Tim Bryan, Craig Ehlen, Brett Long, Jill Oeding, Brian Routh, Jamie Seitz, Francisco Villanueva

**Administrative Assistant Present:** Darla Perigo

**Students Present:** Chase Eubanks, Tailor Frymire, Stevie Lynch, Brooke Neuhoff, Erica Oberbrockling, Brent Williams

**Guest Faculty Present:** Brandon Field, Nick LaRowe

**WELCOME:**

**Rob Wedding** welcomed all to the meeting and asked for self-introductions.

**MINUTES:**

The Spring 2014 minutes were **APPROVED** as distributed.

**BYLAWS:**

**Tonya Borders** reviewed the recommended amendments has edistributed in advance. A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendments to the Bylaws of the Accounting Circle. Motion **CARRIED**.

**ACCOUNTING CIRCLE CHAIR'S REPORT:**

**Wedding** called for the following committee reports:

**Practice/Education Interaction Committee:**

**Borders** referred to the following:

Young Professionals- **Bridgitte Danhauer** reported that she was nominated and elected as chair by the Young Professionals.

Bowling Networking Event- **Kim Kinnaman** updated the Speed Bowling Event, which was moved away from on-campus recruiting events, and compared it to last year. There was good participation of sponsors, but fewer students attended. More students need to be involved. She expressed appreciation to the Circle members who participated. **Brian McGuire** said students have asked him about changing the time to better work around class schedules. Many students wanted to attend, but they did not want to miss their classes. **Kinnaman** asked for feedback as to what the best times are and any other ideas for improvement. She is considering cutting the event down to two hours next year.

High School Day- **Borders** gave a brief description of High School Day for new Circle members. The event used to be popular, but attendance has been declining. It was not held this year. The committee is considering ideas on how to get more students on campus. Some universities hold an accounting competition for high school students. It doesn't count as a college visit, and it gets students on the campus. Visiting high schools to talk to students about accounting careers doesn't seem to be effective.

Faculty Internships- **Borders** referred **Jeanette Maier-Lytle's** faculty internship with United Companies. A copy of **Maier-Lytle's** final presentation to United Companies was in the meeting packet. (See attached.)

Extravaganza- **Danhauer** gave a brief description of the Extravaganza for new Circle members. She expressed appreciation to all of the Circle members who are staying after the meeting to attend. She expects about 80-90 students and about 30 professionals.

Student Internships/Co-ops- **Borders** asked Circle members to review the internship report included in the meeting packet and report any internships that are not on the list.

Distinguished Accountant Report- **Kerry Jackson** talked about his surprise at receiving the Distinguished Accountant Award last year. This year's winner, who will be announced at the Extravaganza, will be next year's committee chair.

**Academic Relations:**

Accountants in the Classroom- **Wedding** encouraged Circle members to get involved because of how fun and rewarding it is. **Maier-Lytle** needs volunteers for next semester.

Speaking Eagles Toastmasters- **Tim Bryan** introduced **Tailor Frymire** and **Chase Eubanks**. Frymire thanked everyone for their support of the club. She said last year's president, **Stevie Lynch**, brought a lot of momentum, and the club reached Distinguished

status for only the second time in about 15 years. This year they are ahead of schedule to reach Select Distinguished status. **Eubanks** said about 25-30 students attend the meetings, and attendance is increasing rather than dropping off. Many of last year's members have graduated, but the club has gained about 20 new members.

### **DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING PROGRAM'S REMARKS**

**McGuire** gave an update on the new ASSCB accreditation standards. The focus continues to be based on continuous improvement but has shifted to three areas: engagement, innovation, and impact. The College is doing well measuring engagement and innovation. Some activities could be considered both.

The College is working with the Philosophy Department to create a new business ethics course which is a new requirement by the Illinois Board of Accountancy for candidates taking the CPA exam. The business ethics course was recently approved. It also requires courses in business analytics, communications, and technology.

Impact is very subjective and difficult to measure, so the College needs Circle members' ideas on how to demonstrate it. For most universities, it is a challenge. Examples could be placement rates of graduates, internships, citations for research that saved the company money, and faculty internships that create positive economic impact for the business. The accounting program must demonstrate impact separate from the College because of separate accreditations.

### **Scholarship Report:**

**Wedding** the Roxy Baas Scholarship is endowed. He called for a motion to recommend endowing the Dan Wade Scholarship **CARRIED**. The scholarship started as the Accounting Circle Scholarship. **McGuire** thanked BKD for their Accounting Education Fund which helps our students with case competitions.

**McGuire** proposed starting on another Accounting Circle Scholarship to help a fifth-year accounting students who is continuing on from the required 120 hours for graduation to 150 hours to sit for the CPA exam. **Bryan** said we have a lot of students who are in this situation; they are no longer eligible to receive financial aid. **Wedding** called for a request to the Board for the funds to establish an endowed Accounting Circle Scholarship, available to grant annually to a full-time student who is acquiring 150 hours to be eligible to sit for the CPA exam. The motion was seconded. Motion **CARRIED**.

### **Beta Alpha Psi:**

**McGuire** said BAP received the superior chapter designation for the last academic year, and was recognized in August at the meeting in Atlanta. The chapter will be receiving funds because of the achievement.

### **AICPA Team:**

**Bryan** expressed his pride of this year's AICPA team, the Screaming Eagles, which beat out some very big-name universities to advance to the finals. They've already won \$10,000 and a trip to Washington, D.C. The team members, **Brooke Neuhoff, Erica**

**Oberbrockling, Brent Williams, and Stevie Lynch**, gave self-introductions. Over 120 teams entered the competition, which was narrowed down to 15, and the Screaming Eagles advanced to the final three. The team showed their YouTube video presentation that advanced them to the semi-finals.

**Alberta Energy Challenge Team:**

**Brandon Field** talked about the challenge sponsored by University of Alberta. He co-coached the team, made up of two business students and two engineering students, with **Maier-Lytle**. The team has not given any information about the case until they arrived. The teams traveled to different sites and facilities. During the three-day competition, the students had access to a large database and were able to consult with representatives from the sponsoring companies. Twelve teams competed from across the globe. USI's team didn't advance to the finals, but **Field** said they did a phenomenal job. There was good chemistry between the two disciplines. **Field** said he changed the way he taught one of his classes, requiring students to include a business proposal as part of their final technical presentation. He believes engineering faculty need to consider incorporating financials into their teaching. One of the engineering students is planning to add a business minor as a result of being part of this team.

**IMA:**

**Jamie Seitz** mentioned that USI is establishing international relationships with other universities, but the problem is funding. She asked Circle members to consider providing funding for case competition travel expenses. The IMA team competed in Minneapolis in June and did an amazing job, but they did not win. She questions whether it has something to do with competing against such large schools that have established their name and reputation. The students have already started working on the 2015 case. She thanked the Circle members for their support.

**ADJOURNED TO ACCOUNTING EXTRAVAGANZA**