

**USI Romain College of Business
Accounting Circle Meeting Minutes
USI's Business & Engineering Center, Lippert Hall
4:00 p.m., April 30, 2015**

Members Present: Tonya Borders, Carolyn Dearmond, Randy Haaff, Rod Meyer, Ann Muehlbauer, Roger Orth, Nick Rueger, Rodney Russell, Bill Schotanus, Rob Wedding, Jeff Wilmes, Chris Wolking, Tracy Zeller

Members Absent: Becki Alcorn, Donald Breivogel, Richard Campbell, Michael Carroll, Kyle Fields, Susan Hardwick, Michael Haynes, Kerry Jackson, Michael Klueh, Tim McGuire, Deborah Meinert, Mark Miles, Steve Mudd, Jana Pottorff-Mitchell, Nikki Roser, Connie Wellmeyer

Young Professionals Present: Derek Adams, Taylor Atkins, Amanda Bingemer, Bridgitte Danhauer, Kiersten Roberts, Kelsie Spillman, David Ubelhor

Young Professionals Absent: Kevin Farley, Kyle Fields, Mitch Happe, Kim Kinnaman, Amy Mings, Angela Reckelhoff, Matt Reffett, Anna Shade, Kyle Waninger

Ex-officio Members Present: Nancy Bizal, Mohammed Khayum, Brian McGuire

Ex-officio Members Absent: Bob Keller, Mark McKnight

Accounting Faculty Present: Tim Bryan, Jeanette Maier-Lytle, Brian Routh, Jamie Seitz

Administrative Assistant Present: Darla Perigo

Students Present: Chase Eubanks, Stevie Lynch, Aaron McCullough, Mitchell Meurer, Jesse Montank, Brooke Neuhoff, Zachary Reed

Guests Present: Hihn Khieu, Mark Rusk, Kristina Walker

WELCOME AND MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT:

Rob Wedding welcomed all to the meeting and asked for self-introductions. He read the membership announcements and thanked those members for an additional or new three-year term.

Renewal Members:

Richard Campbell	Nikki Roser
Randy Haaff	Bill Schotanus
Kerry Jackson	Connie Wellmeyer
Deborah Meinert	Jeff Wilmes
Mark Miles	

New Members:

Kyle Fields (GM at Indiana SS&C Technologies)
Roger Orth (Controller at Escalade)

MINUTES:

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

INVESTMENT ACCOUNTING TRACK:

Tim Bryan thanked **Mohammed Khayum** and **Brian McGuire** for their support of the accounting investment track and the New York City trip for students. **Bryan** and **Jill Oeding** accompanied nine students to New York City for four days where they were guests of SS&C Technologies Global Ops. The group also toured the Financial District on Wall Street, the Museum of American Finance, and other historic areas. **Bryan** said Investment Accounting is a great track.

OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTING GRADUATE AWARD:

Bryan presented the Outstanding Accounting Graduate award to **Stevie Lynch**.

ACCOUNTING CIRCLE CHAIR'S REPORT:

Wedding called for the following committee reports:

Scholarship Report- **Wedding** reminded everyone that the Accounting Circle fifth-year scholarship has been established.

Practice/Education Interaction:

Young Professionals- **Bridgitte Danhauer** reported that the Young Professionals had a very productive annual meeting to discuss events for the upcoming school year. Committees are being assigned.

Fundraising (Bowling) Event- **Danhauer** reported there will be a fundraising event mid-September. It will probably be scheduled for a Friday afternoon to allow more students to attend. Last year's Speed Bowling event was held mid-week in the early afternoon, and many students had classes that they did not want to miss. **McGuire** said moving it to the west side might also be more convenient for students.

High School Day- **Tonya Borders** gave a brief history of High School Day, which has been around since 2004. Because of declining participation, it was not held this year while the Committee thought about why attendance is low and whether the Accounting Circle should focus energy on this recruiting event or elsewhere. The Committee has many questions and theories as to why attendance has dropped, so they thought they could gain insight by surveying key persons at area high schools, then have members follow up with them for additional discussion.

McGuire was in an international meeting recently in which there was discussion that the overall number of accounting majors is decreasing while the demand for accountants is increasing. He believes the College needs to get on top of this, so he would really like to have an event this year. He introduced **Mark Rusk**, interim director of admissions at USI, who shared trends in enrollment. Since the economic downturn, enrollment in health professions and pre-professionals is increasing while enrollment in business and liberal arts is decreasing. Because being a successful student in accounting requires someone very bright, **Rusk** believes the target should be top-level students rather than only those who have expressed interest in accounting. **Chris Wolking** agreed with **Rusk**, adding that the top students are in classes like calculus, physics, and technology rather than high school bookkeeping classes, but they don't have enough information yet to consider accounting as a career.

The foreign language and academic bowls at USI are successful, so there was discussion about organizing a similar competition or challenge in which the winning high school would be the recipient of the scholarship. It would be an incentive for them to form a team of their top students which would then get star students on campus to expose them to what USI has to offer. **Rusk** believes a press release about the winning high school would be excellent publicity. **Wedding** suggested positioning it as an academic competition rather than accounting. **Tracy Zeller** suggested an exclusive invitation, and she is concerned whether high school teachers will be willing to take on another activity. **Maier-Lytle** believes targeting seniors is too late, that it should be sophomores and juniors. **Aaron McCullough** found that being part of a competition at the high school level is what made him decide on accounting as a major.

Danhauer asked for more support for the Young Professionals to plan an event like this.

Faculty Internships- **Maier-Lytle** was the faculty member to participate most recently. She interned with United Companies July 2014 on a six-sigma project; she called it a valuable experience. She used many of the concepts that she teaches in her advanced cost accounting class, so she was able to share some of those examples with her students. **Borders** asked members to contact **McGuire** if they have projects in which a faculty member could participate as part of this program.

Extravaganza- **Danhauer** said the date for this year's Extravaganza is Monday, October 26. **Borders** reminded members this will also be the date for the fall meeting.

Distinguished Accountant Report- **Borders** said **Steve Mudd**, last year's recipient of the Distinguished Accountant Award, will lead the search for the next distinguished accountant. The award will be presented at the Extravaganza. **McGuire** encouraged members to nominate accountants they believe meet the criteria to be Distinguished Accountant. They do not have to be an Accounting Circle member or a USI graduate.

Academic Relations:

Accountants in the Classroom- **Maier-Lytle** needs volunteers for next year. She is very appreciative of the four Circle members who speak in her classroom regularly, but she asked for new volunteers. She thanked **Wedding** for always helping or finding volunteers when she needs them. **Wedding** encouraged Circle members to get involved because of how fun and rewarding it is to interact with the students. **Maier-Lytle** explained the format of the program for new members.

Speaking Eagles Toastmasters- **Bryan** said Speaking Eagles Toastmasters meets for an hour every Tuesday at 4:30p.m., and volunteers are needed at each meeting. **Jamie Seitz** explained the meetings are informal and volunteers can be Circle members or someone from their organizations. **Bryan** mentioned it is a great recruiting opportunity for employers. He reminded members that the Accounting Circle pays the student dues. **Bryan** introduced club president **Chase Eubanks** who spoke briefly about how proud he is to watch how students improve each time they speak. **Stevie Lynch** explained what it takes to earn Competent Leader and Competent Communicator status. **Bryan** said the club is open to students campus-wide.

DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING PROGRAM'S REMARKS

IMA Competition Team:

McGuire was hoping to announce the results of how the IMA case team placed, but **Maier-Lytle** had not received anything from IMA. **McCullough** talked briefly about the case, and **Mitchell Meurer** talked about his experience being part of a business case team for the first time. **Maier-Lytle** said that since 2006, USI has been in the final four every year except one, and has won four times. **McGuire** asked if any members would host the IMA team, if they make it to the final four, and evaluate them to improve their presentation.

Private Business Valuation Challenge Team:

Jesse Montank represented the Private Business Valuation Challenge Team, which recently placed first in the nation. **Montank** talked about his experience being part of the team. This is the first time USI has entered a finance challenge.

Beta Alpha Psi:

Meurer said BAP had a successful semester; the goal is to increase membership. He thanked members for their support and asked for volunteers to speak at the meetings. He thanked the members who came to Meet the Firms Night as well as those who speak as part of the Accountants in the Classroom and Toastmasters; it really does make an impact on the students. **Zachary Reed**, who will be president next year, said BAP achieved superior chapter designation last year and expects to achieve it again this year. **McGuire** said BAP has achieved superior chapter designation every year except one and that year received distinguished chapter designation. He said membership stays consistent at around 22 members.

DEAN'S REMARKS

Mohammed Khayum referred to a handout in the packet and talked about accounting accreditation standards. He said there is push to a new curriculum with heavier emphasis on programming, statistics, and data mining. The field of accounting is becoming much broader, and the College will want to move in this direction so students have the skillset firms require. The College's next accreditation visit will likely be in the spring of 2018, and we need to demonstrate what students have been exposed to in our program as well as mastery.

Khayum thanked members for their participation with the Accounting Circle and for the perspective they bring.

Khayum presented the following awards:

- IMA Outstanding Accounting Graduate – **Brooke Neuhoff** and **Austin Rahmoeller** (not present)
- RCoB Distinguished Graduate – **Brooke Neuhoff**

Neuhoff will deliver the reflection speech at the Romain College of Business commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 2. As a top student in the College, her speech will focus on overcoming obstacles to achieve success.

CLOSING REMARKS AND MEETING ADJOURNED