

**USI Romain College of Business
Accounting Circle Meeting Minutes
USI University Center Carter Hall
4:00 p.m., October 26, 2015**

Members Present: Michael Carroll, Carolyn Dearmond, Michael Haynes, Kerry Jackson, Deborah Meinert, Rod Meyer, Steve Mudd, Roger Orth, Rob Wedding, Connie Wellmeyer, Jeff Wilmes, Tracy Zeller

Members Absent: Becki Alcorn, Tonya Borders, Donald Breivogel, Richard Campbell, Kyle Fields, Randy Haaff, Susan Hardwick, Michael Klueh, Tim McGuire, Mark Miles, Ann Muehlbauer, Jana Pottorff-Mitchell, Nikki Roser, Nick Rueger, Rodney Russell, Bill Schotanus, Chris Wolking

Young Professionals Present: Derek Adams, Taylor Atkins, Amanda Bingemer, Anna Shade Bullock, Bridgitte Danhauer, Mitch Happe, Angela Reckelhoff, Kelsie Spillman, Kyle Waninger

Young Professionals Absent: Kevin Farley, Kyle Fields, Kim Kinnaman, Amy Mings, Matt Reffett, Kiersten Roberts, Ashley Schultz, David Ubelhor

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

Ex-officio Members Absent: Bob Keller

Faculty Present: Julie Brauser, Tim Bryan, Jeanette Maier-Lytle, Jill Oeding, Brian Routh, Jamie Seitz

Administrative Assistant Present: Darla Perigo

Students Present: Chase Eubanks, Luis Macias, Zachary Reed

WELCOME AND MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT:

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

MINUTES:

The Spring 2015 minutes were **APPROVED** as distributed.

ACCOUNTING CIRCLE CHAIR'S REPORT:

Wedding called for the following reports:

Practice Interaction:

Young Professionals- **Bridgitte Danhauer** reported that the Young Professionals had their annual nominations and added USI graduate **Ashley Schultz**. She works at Harding, Shymanski, & Co.

Danhauer said Young Professionals are planning to support Beta Alpha Psi by attending all meetings, similar to how Circle members attend Toastmasters meetings (at least one member at every meeting).

Young Professionals divided into committees.

Fundraising & Networking (Bowling) Event- **Kelsey Spillman** reported the bowling event had a profit of \$3,800. She said student participation was about the same as last year, but sponsorships were down. The event was switched to Franklin Lanes to be closer to USI. The committee will be evaluating the higher expenses and whether it was worth moving to a different location. She believed it was a positive experience; however, it was a smaller area and very noisy.

High School Day- **Danhauer** said this committee, which is led by **Tonya Borders**, will be meeting again and inviting the Young Professionals. They do not have plans yet on how or when this event will take place.

Brian McGuire had statistics to share. In 2014 the Romain College of Business had 297 accounting majors. In 2015 there are 275. This is a drop of 7 percent, although enrollment at the Romain College is up 3 percent. In 2012 there were 362 accounting majors and 386 in 2007. There has been a sharp decrease in accounting majors since 2007. Employers notice they have fewer students applying. In the past year there has been a 3 percent increase nationally in accounting majors while the Romain College has experienced a 7 percent decrease. **McGuire** doesn't believe USI's accounting program is getting visibility in high school recruitment. He also noted there are fewer incoming freshmen accounting majors than the number graduating.

McGuire said the committee discussed not having a High School Day for students and instead bringing high school counselors, accounting instructors, and math instructors on campus to make them aware of the accounting program. He hopes the event will eventually revert back to a day on campus for students, but it is getting harder for them, especially in the EVSC, to get time off for campus visits. There was discussion on whether it is more beneficial to present the accounting program to potential students or high school staff who may influence students.

Faculty Internships- **Kyle Waninger** said there is no new activity to report; but if Circle members would like to offer a faculty internship, they should coordinate it with **Nick Rueger**. **Jeanette Maier-Lytle** talked about the logistics of her last faculty internship.

She has participated in three faculty internships, and each has been very different from the others. **McGuire** has participated in one, and **Brett Long** and **Dan Wade** have also.

Extravaganza- **Derek Adams** invited everyone to attend the Extravaganza. Since the event is open to all business majors, it is a chance to recruit accounting students. **Adams** said he expects the event to run smoother than last year. There will be no assigned seating. Attendees will sit at dinner tables during the presentation of the Distinguished Accountant award. Following dinner, attendees will transition to cocktail tables for speed networking which is what students enjoy most based on feedback from previous years. The Extravaganza will conclude with giveaways and a raffle.

Distinguished Accountant Report- **Steve Mudd**, last year's recipient of the Distinguished Accountant award, thanked those who submitted nominations. He hinted that the 2015 recipient is a very impressive individual with a long list of accomplishments.

Internships Report- **Julie Brauser** thanked those who have hosted internships. She reminded Circle members that Career Services can only track the internships they know about so the totals in the report in the meeting packet are probably slightly low.

Accountants in the Classroom- **Maier-Lytle** thanked the volunteers who have spoken in her classes. She consistently hears that students enjoy it as do the volunteers. She brought the spring 2016 class schedule to sign up Circle member volunteers after the meeting. There are five sections so she needs five public and five private accountants to partner for two visits. She would like them to talk about their career paths during the first visit, and they can choose the topic for the second visit. **Wedding** reiterated how enjoyable it is to participate. **Maier-Lytle** and **Tim Bryan** have had students change their major to accounting after hearing a Circle member's story.

Speaking Eagles Toastmasters- **Chase Eubanks** thanked the Circle for paying the dues for student members. **Eubanks** said he enjoys having new students and Circle members attend meetings, but he really likes when they participate. The club is scheduling speeches for many student members, and he hopes that trend continues. **Bryan** said the club has achieved Distinguished Club status for two years in a row, which means there is a lot of member activity. He said the number of students in attendance has been down slightly. In asking Circle members to participate at meetings, **Eubanks** gave examples such as talking about themselves and their career paths, talking about the importance of communication in the workplace, and holding a question and answer session. Those Circle members who would like to speak should coordinate with **Jamie Seitz**.

DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING PROGRAM'S REMARKS

Pathways:

McGuire said USI is a Pathways commission-endorsed university for following Pathways' recommendations. USI accounting faculty currently has five terminally qualified faculty members: **Dr. Craig Ehlen**, **Dr. Mehmet Kocakulah**, **Dr. Brett Long**,

Dr. Brian McGuire, and **Dr. Jill Oeding**. Currently there are five professionally qualified faculty members: **Tim Bryan**, **Jeanette Maier-Lytle**, **Brian Routh**, **Jamie Seitz**, and **Bob Wuerth**. **Seitz** and **Routh** are working on doctorates.

Beta Alpha Psi:

Luis Macias thanked **Danhauer** for the support of the Young Professionals. The club has around 22 members. **Wedding** asked **Macias** to explain the purpose of the Accounting & Professional Services (APS) club. **Macias** said the APS club is for underclassmen and BAP is for upperclassmen who meet certain requirements.

McGuire mentioned that USI's BAP chapter has been named a superior chapter every year except one. Superior is the highest ranking a chapter can get. Four students will be going to the IMA student leadership conference in Orlando, Florida.

Business Case Winners:

McGuire referred to a handout in the meeting packet of the most recent business case team wins. **Maier-Lytle** talked briefly about the teams with which she has been involved and how rewarding the team and personal accomplishments are.

AICPA:

McGuire recognized this year's AICPA case team. **Bryan** said that USI was one of 162 teams that entered, but we did not make the semi-finals round despite what he believed was a very strong entry.

Case Teams:

There was discussion on trying to understand how universities that win or advance to the semi-finals and finals for a year or two do not advance the following years. **Wedding** agreed it is hard to understand why that happens, but that there are still many positive things the students take away from being part of a case team experience. **Maier-Lytle** said the University of Florida (UF) has invited USI to compete in its business case competition. She believes USI was invited because UF has seen what a strong contender our teams are on the international stage. She thanked Circle members for supporting the case teams. **Nancy Bizal** said our students are branding USI, and she thanked the Circle members who are alumni because they also are branding USI.

Retirement:

McGuire recognized **Bizal** for everything she has done for the College and the advisory boards. She will be on sabbatical in the spring semester prior to retiring.

DEAN'S REMARKS

Mohammed Khayum referred to a University-wide initiative where inquiries by potential students are handled more efficiently. He spoke of partnerships with other colleges, including Henderson Community College. He is encouraged that things are starting to pick back up because more applications to the Romain College than any time

since 2012 have been received. He asked for ways to showcase the strong connection between the Accounting Circle, the Romain College, and the professional community.

CLOSING REMARKS AND MEETING ADJOURNED TO THE EXTRAVAGANZA

Congratulations to:

Brooke Neuhoff, *Romain College of Business Distinguished Graduate Award*

Information Systems Project + Case Competition 2015

- **Steve Babcock, Matt Lockard, Chase Hunt, Jared Shade, Chad Greenwood, Jared Hermayer, Courtney Henson, Brian Ensor, and Cleo Walker—Coaches Gongjun Yan and Dinko Basic**
- Earned **Overall Champion** (case competition, class project contest, and presentation)
- **First Place** Case Solution (case competition award)
- Second Place Project Presentation (class project)
- Third Place Project Solution (class project)
- Received the most awards of the 12 teams from seven universities that participated
- First time USI has entered this competition which is hosted by Miller College of Business at Ball State University

Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) 2015

- **Mark Lewellyn**, who is pursuing a post-baccalaureate certificate in CIS, received the George Eggert Award for the **highest score** in the national ICCP certification exam
- Seniors **Tyler Shemwell**, a CIS major, and **Bradley Cadden**, a computer science major, earned Honorable Mentions in the Business Analytics competition
- This year's annual AITP conference was held in Omaha, NE and was attended by 58 universities and over 500 students
- A team from USI has participated in AITP's annual conference for more than a decade, earning numerous awards including six first-place wins, four second- and third-place titles, and more than ten Honorable Mentions

Alberta Not-for-Profit Case Competition (ANPCC) 2015

- **Brian Ensor, Kyle Hoeing, Zach Mathis and Cole Schafer—Coaches Jeanette Maier-Lytle and Manfen Chen**
- **First place** for their solutions to the issues facing The Kids With Cancer Society, a not-for-profit organization
- USI team was one of only nine teams from business schools across Canada and the United States invited to compete
- Held in Alberta Canada.
- First win outside the United States for a USI business case team

Private Business Valuation Challenge 2015

- **Emily Cummings, Kelsey Fulton, Jesse Montank, and Mackenzi Seib—Coaches Khaled Elkhail and Hinh Khieu**
- Senior-level valuation professionals selected USI as a top eight finalist from 24 universities after judging the quality of the teams' equity valuation of a private business via video submission
- USI team **placed first** and won \$5,000 for their live presentation at the finals
- First time USI has entered a finance team in a business case competition
- Competition was hosted by Seattle Pacific University in Seattle, WA

Royal Roads University International Undergraduate Case Competition 2015

- **Alicia Bowling, Caleb Mathers, Brooke Neuhoff, Jacob Titzer, and Morgan Stierley, (alternate)—Coach Jamie Seitz**
- Twenty universities are invited to participate, and USI team was one of only two from the United States. Other teams were from universities in Canada and Ireland.

Alberta Energy Challenge 2015

- **Alicia Bowling, Connor Curry, Ryan Elpers, and Casey Montgomery—Coaches Manfen Chen and Brandon Field**
- USI team *placed first*
- Second year for USI to send an interdisciplinary team, pairing students from business and engineering
- Held at University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada
- Nine student teams from around the world competed

IMA 2015

- **Aaron McCullough, Austin Rahmoeller, Logan Ball, and Mitchell Meurer—Coaches Jeanette Maier-Lytle and Jamie Seitz**
- USI team *placed first*
- Held in Los Angeles, CA
- Ninth year for USI to qualify for the national finals
- *Only the second university to win the prestigious competition five times*

Honor Societies

- **Beta Alpha Psi**-the national honor organization for accounting, CIS, and finance. Seven students were inducted in a spring ceremony>>
- **Beta Gamma Sigma**-the honor society for students enrolled in collegiate business and management programs at AACSB accredited institutions. 29 students were inducted in a spring ceremony>>
- **Omicron Delta Epsilon**-an academic honor society that recognizes scholastic achievement in economics. Five students were inducted as new members.