

**USI Romain College of Business
Accounting Circle Meeting Minutes
USI University Center Carter Hall
4:00 p.m., October 27, 2016**

Members Present: Carolyn Dearmond, Randy Haaff, Kerry Jackson, Deborah Meinert, Rod Meyer, Brad Minor, Steve Mudd, Connie Wellmeyer, Jeff Wilmes, Chris Wolking, Doug Wurmnest, Tracy Zeller

Members Absent: Tonya Borders, Donald Breivogel, Richard Campbell, Michael Carroll, Kyle Fields, Jarod Florence, Susan Hardwick, Mark Miles, Jana Pottorff-Mitchell, Ann Muehlbauer, Roger Orth, Nikki Roser, Nick Rueger, Bill Schotanus, Rob Wedding

Young Professionals Present: Derek Adams, Amanda Bingemer, Anna Shade Bullock, Bridgitte Danhauer, Matt Reffett, Kiersten Roberts, Ashley Schultz, Kelsie Spillman, Kyle Waninger

Young Professionals Absent: Taylor Atkins, Kevin Farley, Mitch Happe, Kim Kinnaman, Emily Nurrenbern, Angela Reckelhoff, David Ubelhor

Ex-officio Members Present: Brian McGuire, Mark McKnight

Ex-officio Members Absent: Kevin Hammett, Mohammed Khayum

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

Administrative Assistant Present: Darla Perigo

Students Present: Brooke Broshears

WELCOME AND MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT:

Steve Mudd welcomed all to the meeting and asked for self-introductions.

MINUTES:

The Spring 2016 minutes were **APPROVED** as distributed.

ACCOUNTING CIRCLE CHAIR'S REPORT:

Mudd called for the following reports for the Accounting Circle and Young Professionals activities:

Accountants in the Classroom- Jeanette Maier-Lytle gave a brief description of the program. She is no longer organizing this activity, so it will need to be assigned to another faculty member. Mudd said he enjoyed it when he participated in the Accountants in the Classroom program.

Speaking Eagles Toastmasters- **Tim Bryan** introduced Brooke Broshears, who is president. She was proud to announce last semester Toastmasters received Select Distinguished Club status for the first time in 17 years. The club has 25 active members. They are recruiting for new students, with a focus on recruiting freshmen by visiting University 101 classes. **Bryan** mentioned this semester two students have earned Competent Leader designation and one has earned Competent Communicator designation. He still needs speakers for his University 101 classes. **Mudd** thanked **Bryan** for running the Toastmasters program.

Faculty Internships- **Kyle Waninger** reported there are no changes or developments. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact **Nick Rueger**.

Distinguished Accountant Report- **Tracy Zeller**, last year's recipient of the Distinguished Accountant award and this year's Distinguished Accountant committee chairman, organized the binder of information for this committee that has been passed along to each chairman for many years. **Zeller** met with **Nancy Bizal** to determine what can be purged. Relevant files are now in paper and electronic format for this year's recipient who becomes the next chairman, and the College will have the files in an electronic format. **Mudd** expressed appreciation for **Zeller** taking on the task, and it will make the process easier going forward. **Brian McGuire** mentioned the book was created by past Circle member **Darrell Spurlock**.

Due to professional obligations and work conflicts, it is getting more difficult to ensure that the award recipient is present at the Extravaganza. **Zeller** put out for vote to the committee whether to continue surprising the recipient, and members unanimously agreed it will be the chair's decision.

Zeller recommends a contingency plan be added in case the award recipient is unable to serve as committee chair.

Bowling Event- **Kelsey Spillman** thanked those who participated or attended. She was pleased the event increased in profit from last year's event. There were 35 students signed up, but only about 19 attended, so student participation is something that needs to improve. There were four individual donations, which was new this year for members who were unable to attend. **Mudd** thanked **Spillman** for her efforts, and she said she had a good committee.

High School Day Case and Individual Competition- **Amanda Bingemer** thanked those on the committee, and remarked how much each person has contributed. There are six teams from four high schools signed up, for a total of 25 high school students registered. All area high schools have been contacted. She reviewed the tentative schedule for the day. She thanked USI Admissions, Special Events, IT, Communications Department, Romain College, and Foundation for their roles. **McGuire** thanked **Bingemer** for her role in organizing the event.

Bingemer discussed two handouts. One was a screenshot of the informational web page built for the event. Second, she had screenshots of Twitter, and asked Circle members to tweet using the event hashtag #usihscae to welcome the high school students and encourage them to tweet which will be a way for them to win prizes at the event.

Chris Wolking, who mentored one of the high school teams, is encouraged by how bright and motivated the students are, and reminded members that these students are prospects for USI. He encouraged Circle members to support them by participating in High School Day and being enthusiastic about meeting them. He hopes this type of event will get the high school students thinking about the profession of accounting, and it is a way to showcase the university.

McGuire attended a board meeting in Florida recently. One of the discussion topics was that nationally there seems to be a correlation in the decline in accounting majors and an increase in finance majors. He thanked members for their efforts because the earlier students are involved in USI's accounting program, the better off the program will be.

Mudd thanked **Bingemer** for her involvement with this event.

Extravaganza- Derek Adams invited everyone to attend the Extravaganza, immediately following the meeting in Carter Hall. Based on past feedback, this event is one of the students' favorites. **Adams** went over the schedule for the evening. **Mudd** thanked **Adams** for his efforts with this event, and hopes everyone can attend.

Internships Report- Julie Brauser said the University has a Lilly grant until 2018, so she encouraged members to take advantage of it to fund their internships. She thanked those employers who give our students internship opportunities.

McGuire commented that one of the main questions he hears from parents of prospective students is the availability of internships and job placement after graduation. He said providing internships is an important aspect of our recruiting efforts.

Financial Reports- McGuire reviewed the financial reports included in the meeting packet. He brought up that dues for Speaking Eagles Toastmasters had been paid out of Circle membership dues in the past; however, in recent years, it has been paid by BKD's Foundation fund. A previous chair may have dropped the Circle member's fee assessment. **McGuire** posed whether to begin collecting dues from members, so it can truly be a point of pride that the Circle is underwriting the cost of Toastmasters.

Young Professionals- Bridgitte Danhauer said that former USI student **Emily Nurrenbern** is joining the Young Professionals. Their annual meeting will be in the spring. They will continue to evolve and look at new student activities. They will have to work through membership issues and determine renewal processes. **McGuire** said the group has a positive reputation in the community; he has had three people ask him recently how they can join. He suggested raising the cap on the number of members might be a discussion item. Another discussion item may be what happens when Young

Professionals approach their age cap, whether they automatically transition to the Accounting Circle, and if so, there are by-laws that will need amending.

DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING PROGRAM'S REMARKS

Faculty Activities:

McGuire said **Mehmet Kocakulah** is on sabbatical in the spring semester and will then be retiring. He is pleased to announce that **Andy Dill**, a graduate of USI, will be joining the College in January. He announced that **Mark McKnight** is now associate professor of accounting. **McKnight** successfully completed a bridge program designed by AACSB that helps faculty transition from other academic disciplines to accounting due to a shortage in accounting faculty. **McKnight** talked about the intense process he went through with the University of Florida program.

Beta Alpha Psi:

McGuire said the USI chapter finished the year as a superior chapter. The chapter will receive \$500, and was recognized at BAP's annual meeting for its achievement. He asked for volunteers to speak at BAP meetings in the spring semester. Accounting & Professional Services (APS) Club did not receive a designation last year due to a filing issue, but club officers are working on it for the upcoming year. Four students will be attending the IMA Student Leadership Conference in November in Detroit, Michigan. Two will be guest speakers and will present on the successes of our business case teams.

DEAN'S REMARKS

McGuire said the College has been approved for an AACSB reaccreditation visit in spring 2018. The College is already preparing by holding faculty workshops to gather information for the report that must be submitted at the end of fall 2017. The goal is to write the report this spring, and have summer and fall to review the report prior to submission. There is a new requirement to include data analytics in the accounting curriculum, which will eventually be required for the College's curriculum. Other new requirements include demonstrating innovation, engagement, and impact. The challenge will be demonstrating innovation and impact because they are subjective. He asked Circle members to let us know if they have ideas how the accounting program has impacted their workplace.

Maier-Lytle thanked members for the continued support of her business case teams. There was discussion about this year's IMA team and about the competition. **Connie Wellmeyer** brought together a team of professionals at Toyota for the IMA team to practice in front of, and she said they were impressed with the caliber of the students and how well they knew supply chain management.

Bryan thanked the professionals who helped his Business Valuation team.

CLOSING REMARKS AND MEETING ADJOURNED TO THE EXTRAVAGANZA