

**USI Romain College of Business
Accounting Circle Meeting Minutes
3:30 p.m., October 29, 2020 via Zoom**

Members Present: Derek Adams, Michael Carroll, Bridgitte Danhauer, Carolyn Dearmond, Kerry Jackson, Brant Kennedy, Brad Minor, Ashley Schultz.

Members Absent: Amanda Bingemer, Jo Burke, Richard Campbell, Mitch Happe, Connie Wellmeyer Lucas, Mark Miles, Steve Mudd, Roger Orth, Charlie Pride, Jr., Nikki Roser, Rob Wedding, Jeff Wilmes, Chris Wolking

Young Professionals Present: Bryce Bullock, Tony Hiatt, Cyndi Hines, Kyle Hoeing, Amber Key, Paige McClellan, Jesse Reising, Kiersten Roberts, Zach Scott, Celeste Tabor, Jason Warford

Young Professionals Absent: Anna Bullock, Ryan Clark, Lauren Perigo, Jazmine Skelton, Kelsey Spillman

Ex-officio Members Present: Cathy Carey, Brian McGuire

Ex-officio Members Absent: Teri Hollander Albin

Faculty Present: Brett Bueltel, Andy Dill, Mark McKnight, Thomas Noland, Jennifer Riester, Jamie Seitz, Thomas Weber

Communications Associate Present: Darla Perigo

Students Present: Mohamed Alhali, Justin Bucherl, Thomas Busche

WELCOME AND MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT:

Michael Carroll welcomed all to the meeting. There are no new members, but **Carroll** encouraged members to pass along names of people who may be interested in joining. He would like to meet with them to talk about the Circle.

MINUTES:

The Spring 2020 minutes were **APPROVED** as e-distributed.

ACCOUNTING CIRCLE CHAIR'S REPORT:

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

Young Professionals- Kiersten Roberts introduced the four new Young Professionals: **Ryan Clark, Cyndi Hines, Amber Key** and **Zach Scott**. There were five nominations, but they could only bring in four because there is a cap of three per company. **Carroll** welcomed them to the team. That brings the Young Professionals to 16 members.

High School Day Case and Individual Competition- **Carroll** talked about outreach to high schools. He reviewed last year's USI High School Business Day, which he called better and more professional than in previous years. The hope was to build on that momentum; however, there will be no in-person event in 2020. He would like to get a group together to focus on contacting high schools, either virtually or in person, to talk about USI, Romain College, accounting and business majors. **Brian McGuire** found that Bellermine University partnered with KYCPA and held a virtual event. **Bridgitte Danhauer** emphasized that having a personal contact at the high schools is key to making the connection. We would hope to do this in fall semester and need a chair to coordinate our efforts. **Thomas Noland** estimates this may need to be only about a 30-minute presentation.

Assuming face-to-face events can be held again by fall 2021, **Danhauer** plans to have the USI High School Business Day as a similar event to 2019's event. She will start asking for committee members soon to begin planning. **Noland** suggested inviting guidance counselors as well to educate them about USI.

Extravaganza- **Kiersten Roberts** suggested that the Extravaganza and fundraising event be combined into one virtual networking event early in the spring 2021 semester. **Noland** suggested coordinating it with Beta Alpha Psi and APS Club or Toastmasters meetings.

Merit Badge University- The Merit Badge University will be in February, and **Danhauer** is waiting to hear more details from the Boy Scouts. She will reach out to those who have helped with it in the past. If anyone else from the Circle is interested in helping, please contact her.

DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING PROGRAM'S REMARKS

Case Competition Teams- **Jeanette Maier-Lytle** said USI's team did not make the finals in last year's IMA case competition. She shared comments from one of the judges about the quality of the team's video: "The best put-together visual analysis I have seen in four years of judging. Great job." The 2021 case competition team is moving ahead, and the team members have been selected. This year's case is managerial accounting and set in India. She said USI is tied with another university for the most IMA wins. **Brant Kennedy** offered that the team can present to Harding either virtually or in person. **Maier-Lytle** appreciates everyone's support for the case teams. **Danhauer** asked about other competitions. **Maier-Lytle** will research and commented that there may be some time before competitions are held, even virtually. **McGuire** said BAP is still doing regional competitions virtually, but they hope to have the final event live in Las Vegas. USI's BAP chapter has submitted their entry into the regional BAP competition.

Financial Reports- There was little change in the financial statements since the last report.

Internships Report- **Jennifer Riester** reviewed the RCoB Accounting Internship report. Using CareerLaunch is providing more data than just the number of internships. She asked members to contact her office if their company has internships to ensure they are reported. Her report shows known internships, but she believes the actual number is

higher. She also reviewed other data and statistics. Spring internships were affected by the pandemic; however, many tax and audit students reported they were still able to complete the requirements for course credit. She gave credit to employers for their efforts in fall recruiting, and about 89 interviews occurred either on campus or virtually. She is still gathering information on how many resulted in hires, but she asked members to let her know if they had hires.

More than 400 students attended the spring fair, which was held prior to the pandemic. There are fewer employers who come to the fall semester career fair, but about 140 students participated virtually. **Carroll** said he appreciates **Riester's** efforts, and he mentioned his internship when he was a USI student. He will help in any way he can, and **Riester** said her office is there to assist employers.

Speaking Eagles Toastmasters- **Mohamed Alhali** said Toastmasters has been meeting online. Membership is down to about six members due to the pandemic and graduation. Members have been reaching out to professors about encouraging their students to attend, and they are promoting it as an activity for all majors. He also believes they gained members from Romain's Involvement Fair. **Carroll** would like to get more students involved because it is such a great benefit. **Maier-Lytle** invited anyone from Toastmasters to speak to her online classes about joining, and **Carroll** offered to be part of that as well.

Beta Alpha Psi- **Thomas Busche** began by thanking the Circle members for their support. BAP has about 20 active members, which is down slightly from last year's 25. BAP is on track to earn superior status again this year. Meetings are via Zoom, and he hopes this will enable more guest speakers from outside the Evansville area to attend. He asked for Circle members to let him know if they have contacts in other markets because expanding to new companies may help with student attendance. One challenge for BAP members is getting in professional hours and networking. He thanked BKD and Harding for virtual recruiting events and said they went well. BAP is planning Meet the Firms in April either in person or virtually. BAP needs speakers at the December 3 meeting. **Roberts** suggested whether the Extravaganza could be part of the December 3 meeting. **McGuire** mentioned that if USI's BAP chapter reaches out to another university's BAP chapter, it counts as professional hours and a "reaching out" activity (ROA). **Carroll** will email Circle members to establish some mentorships with students. He thanked **Busche** for his ideas.

Accounting & Professional Services Club- **Justin Bucherl** said they hold joint meetings with BAP. Their membership is about 13 members, compared to 20-25 last semester. He thanked **Maier-Lytle**, **McGuire** and **Noland** for helping them spread the word about APS in their classes. Reporting as an IMA student chapter for this semester is wrapped up, and he plans to send that off. **Maier-Lytle** thanked **Bucherl** for being part of this year's IMA case team. He said the team is ahead of schedule on their case activities.

Thomas Noland reviewed the Accounting Chair's Report data and statistics and the reaccreditation schedule. **Drs. Andy Dill** and **Mark McKnight** need speakers for Accountants in the Classroom, and **Carroll** will be in **Noland's** class. He is working on the Meet the Firms event. **Noland** created five breakout rooms for participants. What technology are our students weak in? Comments included Excel, accounting software such as QuickBooks, project management, CIS 301 and an accounting simulation project. **Danhauer** said students seem to understand more what AACSB accreditation means and what USI can offer. **Carey** mentioned in Kentucky business classes are being removed from the high school curriculum, so how can we overcome that? **McGuire** thinks schools are getting more funding for STEM classes as compared to business classes.

DEAN'S REMARKS

Cathy Carey thanked the Accounting Circle members for their service. She is finding that students appreciate the virtual learning environment because they can still attend classes if they are unable to physically be there. Romain College is moving toward having an online business administration degree, which may result in other online programs. She explained the higher education cliff in 2025, when the number of high school graduates drops off significantly; therefore, we will have to meet the needs of other markets, such as the adult learner.

Carey presented strategic priorities slides that included changes in curriculum and structure, course delivery distribution, adaptability, internships, enrollment, accounting-related impacts, demographics and diversity and inclusion efforts. **Carroll** asked what is driving the business administration degree numbers. **Carey** said that while it may have the largest number of students, they usually switch out to a different major once they have taken some business classes, and this has benefited our other majors.

CLOSING REMARKS AND MEETING ADJOURNED

Carroll reviewed some next steps which included getting involved with USI student organizations, contacting high schools, assisting with the 2021 IMA case team, mentoring one on one with students and speaking in Accountants in the Classroom.