

**USI Romain College of Business
Accounting Circle Meeting Minutes
3:30 p.m., April 27, 2023, BE0035**

Members Present: Derek Adams, Amanda Bingemer, Jo Burke, Michael Carroll, Bridgitte Danhauer, Tony Hiatt, Connie Wellmeier Lucas, Brad Minor, Celeste Tabor, Rob Wedding, Jeff Wilmes

Members Absent: Carlin Beckman, Richard Campbell, Patrick Edwards, Brant Kennedy, Mark Miles, Steve Mudd, Roger Orth, Charlie Pride, Jr., Nikki Roser, Ashley Schultz, Chris Wolking

Young Professionals Present: Ryan Clark, Kendall Hurt, Cassie Muensterman, Emily Kendrick, Paige Pysillos, Jesse Reising, Kiersten Roberts

Young Professionals Absent: Clayton Allen, Bryce Bullock, Cyndi Hines, Kyle Hoeing, Amber Key, Brandon Metcalf, Zach Scott, Kelsey Spillman, Drew Turpin, Jason Warford

Ex-officio Members Present: Brian McGuire, Sudesh Mujumdar

Faculty Present: Ben Gu, Jeanette Maier-Lytle, Thomas Noland, Jennifer Riester, Thomas Weber

Communications Associate Present: Darla Perigo

Student Present: Kaitlyn Sturgeon

WELCOME, MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT, AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Bridgitte Danhauer welcomed everyone to the meeting. After individual introductions, **Danhauer** announced the members who were elected for another three-year term: **Amanda Bingemer, Brad Minor, and Ashley Schultz.**

MINUTES:

The Fall 2022 minutes were APPROVED as e-distributed. **Tony Hiatt** motioned and it was seconded by **Celeste Tabor.**

DEAN'S REMARKS:

Sudesh Mujumdar updated members on the College's recent AACSB reaccreditation visit. The business program received a five-year extension, and the decision on the accounting program will come in June. He talked about his vision for the College, in which he says one "R" trumps two "K's", and how we have been doing that in multiple ways, including using our four state-of-the-art labs. **Mujumdar** recently was invited to the Indiana Chamber's CFO Roundtable. CFOs are becoming more involved in strategic decisions. One of the things our new textual analytics lab can do is "scrape" online conversations from websites. He discussed the Romain Promise Program we are implementing in high schools.

ACCOUNTING CIRCLE CHAIR'S REPORT:

Accountants in the Classroom-Michael Carroll and Kiersten Roberts spoke in **Brett Bueltel's** classroom. **Thomas Noland** had two speakers from the IRS. Adam Atwood from SS&C talked to **Jeanette Maier-Lytle's** class.

Extravaganza-This year's Extravaganza will be Wednesday, October 25. The planning committee will be in touch with details. **Paige Psyllos** commented that the overall feedback from students at last fall's Extravaganza was positive. The boxed lunches were not well received, so we will go back to the buffet. There was a suggestion to put a time limit on the Distinguished Accountant Award recipient's speech.

High School Day Case Competition-Ryan Clark and Jason Warford will chair. **Clark** spoke with USI Admissions and the date is tentatively set for Friday, November 3. There was a good turnout for last fall's event. He will speak to Special Events about scheduling Carter Hall and rooms in University Center. **Thomas Noland** said there were high school principals on campus today through USI Outreach and Engagement, and the case competition was mentioned to them. Some weren't aware of it, so creating awareness is important.

Merit Badge University-Tony Hiatt said he, **Carlin Beckman, Ryan Clark,** and **Bridgitte Danhauer** taught a class with 15-20 Boy Scouts. Several wrapped up their badge with this class, and many are getting close. It was **Clark's** first time participating, and he thought most of the Scouts were engaged. The next class will be in February 2024.

Young Professionals-Kiersten Roberts said **Jesse Reising** will be the next chair, and **Ryan Clark** will be chair-elect. They will get back to planning an on-campus fundraising event this fall, and they are open to ideas and suggestions.

Distinguished Accountant Award-Michael Carroll will chair the committee this fall and will be soliciting nominations soon.

Carroll reported that the *Get Fired Up* session in January was fun, but the biggest challenge is to get students motivated and make them understand what they do here on campus affects their life after they leave. **Danhauer** was pleased to see how many students, faculty and staff were in the atrium for the event.

DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING PROGRAM'S REMARKS:

Internships Report-Jennifer Riester reviewed her report in the meeting packet. Career Launch is the best place to collect data on internships and experiential learning opportunities. She is working on informing accounting majors about fall recruiting activities like Meet the Firms and open houses.

Speaking Eagles Toastmasters-Thomas Weber reported they collected names of 17 interested students at their Dessert Bar. There are 11 returning members and four new ones. He read a statement from **Kennedy Williams**, the club's outgoing president who was unable to attend, thanking Circle members for supporting them financially. She said she and other students have truly benefited from it. **Michael Carroll** wants to be involved when school starts in the fall.

Beta Alpha Psi and Accounting & Professional Services Club-Kaitlyn Sturgeon reported there are about eleven members of BAP. Meet the Firms is September 7. The planning committee will meet over the summer. **Thomas Noland** noted there was an excellent employer turnout last year even though it was the same date as University of Evansville's. This fall ours is scheduled the day after UE's event.

Sturgeon reported that APS Club has about 18-20 members.

Case Competition Teams-Jeanette Maier-Lytle said the two IMA teams did not make the final four this year, and she thanked Circle members for their support. She talked about the change in how student teams submit their cases to IMA. Instead of a video, it is now a PowerPoint made up of 40 slides with no animation. However, presentation skills are where USI students excel. **Brian McGuire** attributes that to the students being members of USI Speaking Eagles Toastmasters. **Noland** said next year we will try to take a student team to the Alberta Not-For-Profit Case Competition.

Noland reviewed his report in the meeting packet which listed this year's student awards and scholarship recipients. Audrey Barclay, an accounting and finance major, was named the 2023 Romain College of Business Distinguished Graduate. **McGuire** noted that several of the Distinguished Graduate finalists are accounting majors.

Noland discussed the AACSB team review meeting, which included Accounting Circle members. The team's concern is our accounting program may not be ready for the upcoming CPA Evolution changes to the CPA Exam in January 2024. The CPA Exam will still have four parts, but Business Environment and Concepts is going away December 15 and that part of the exam will become discipline specific. He thinks we may need to add courses to the accounting program, but we are not required to change our curriculum. **Michael Carroll** commented that local employers' needs should dictate our accounting and course specialties. The State Board is voting on whether to change the timeframe to complete the CPA Exam from 18 months to 30 months. **Noland** expects that there will be a resolution from the AACSB team and committee in June.

Financials-McGuire reviewed the financials included in the meeting packet. There are balance sheets related to each of our scholarships. He thanked FORVIS for their contributions, which fund things like student travel and Toastmasters student membership fees. We would like to send 1-2 students to the Beta Alpha Psi annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, in August. Having at least one student attend is required to earn Superior chapter status.

Diversity Scholarship-Bridgitte Danhauer requested approval to pursue a new diversity scholarship. It was motioned by **Kiersten Roberts** and seconded by **Jesse Reising**.

Noland thanked Circle members for how much they contribute to the University and the accounting program, and **McGuire** said peer review teams are very impressed with how active this board is. **Danhauer** noted that one of the AACSB team members wanted to

know more about the High School Day recruiting event and gave major kudos for how instrumental this group is.

CLOSING REMARKS:

There was a general discussion on ChatGPT and what it means for universities. **Brian McGuire** was at an AACSB conference where there was a discussion about how quickly ChatGPT is evolving, how many jobs it could eliminate, and where artificial intelligence will be in a few years. Another concern is students and faculty using it to write papers. **McGuire** is a member of IVYTech's Advisory Board, and they are considering having students in online classes come to campus to take paper exams. Schools must put in place policies addressing the use of artificial intelligence.

Bridgitte Danhauer asked for members to sign up for committees, and the meeting was adjourned.