USI Romain College of Business
Accounting Circle Meeting Minutes
4 p.m., October 13, 2021, Carter Hall

Members Present: Jo Burke, Michael Carroll, Bridgitte Danhauer, Patrick Edwards, Connie Wellmeyer Lucas, Brad Minor, Steve Mudd, Roger Orth, Charlie Pride, Rob Wedding, Jeff Wilmes

Members Absent: Derek Adams, Amanda Bingemer, Richard Campbell, Mitch Happe, Brant Kennedy, Mark Miles, Nikki Roser, Ashley Schultz, Chris Wolking

Young Professionals Present: Clayton Allen, Ryan Clark, Tony Hiatt, Brandon Medcalf, Amy Mings, Paige Psyllos, Jesse Reising

Young Professionals Absent: Bryce Bullock, Cyndi Hines, Kyle Hoeing, Amber Key, Kiersten Roberts, Zach Scott, Kelsey Spillman, Celeste Tabor, Drew Turpin, Jason Warford

Ex-officio Members Present: Cathy Carey, Brian McGuire

Ex-officio Members Absent: Teri Hollander Albin

Faculty Present: Andy Dill, Jeanette Maier-Lytle, Thomas Noland, Jennifer Riester

Communications Associate Present: Darla Perigo

Students Present: Mara Caldieraro, Zach Fuller, Malaika Stewart

MINUTES:

The Spring 2021 minutes were **APPROVED** as e-distributed.

WELCOME AND MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT:

Michael Carroll welcomed all to the meeting.

ACCOUNTING CIRCLE CHAIR'S REPORT:

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

Young Professionals- Carroll reported there are 16 members of the Young Professionals. Two did not renew their membership, and there are three new members: **Clayton Allen, Brandon Medcalf,** and **Drew Turpin**. **Amy Mings** was approved by email vote October 21. **Carroll** welcomed the new members and explained more about the roles of the Young Professionals.

Accountants in the Classroom- Thomas Noland said **Connie Lucas** is scheduled to present to **Jeanette Maier-Lytle**'s class and **Roger Orth** will be coming to **Mark McKnight'**s class. There will be four more sessions. **Carroll** read the dates of classes

still needing presenters. **Noland** reminded members they can co-present with another professional.

High School Day Case and Individual Competition- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the annual High School Day Case Competition was not permitted on campus. **Ryan Clark** asked members if they have contacts at the high schools, such as business teachers or counselors, and that might help facilitate members speaking to classes about careers in accounting. COVID-19 restrictions at the high schools will determine whether speakers will be allowed to go in person.

Extravaganza- **Paige Psyllos** organized this year's Extravaganza, which will be held immediately following the meeting. She reviewed the agenda and explained more about the event for new members. Last year's Extravaganza was held virtually, so it is exciting to gather in person this fall, following the University's COVID-19 protocols.

Merit Badge University- **Bridgitte Danhauer** explained the Boy Scouts Merit Badge University for new members. It is for middle school students through high school students. She plans to participate in February 2022. Thirteen Scouts attended the virtual University last February, and one has completed the tasks to earn his badge. **Carroll** and **Brian McGuire** thanked her for the PR for USI as well as the important skills provided.

Distinguished Account Award- **Rob Wedding**, who was the 2019 award recipient, is the chair of this year's committee. The 2021 recipient is **Michael Carroll**, and **Wedding** will present the award to him at the Extravaganza. **Carroll** said he is very honored to be in the company of the past recipients.

Fundraising Event- **Carroll** reported there is no fundraising event this fall, but members are hopeful one can be held in the spring.

Carroll talked about the idea of a "get fired up" session for students. The purpose is to get students engaged in activities while they are at USI and understand the benefits of getting involved. He mentioned coming up with an informal mentoring program. **Danhauer** said she spoke to one class and found that balancing school and workload is an issue for students.

DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING PROGRAM'S REMARKS

Thomas Noland reviewed enrollment numbers for undergraduate and graduate students. For AACSB accreditation, the year of record for Romain College of Business ends June 30, 2022, and the accreditation team will be at the University in February 2023. They will want to meet with Accounting Circle members and Young Professionals.

Case Competition Teams- **Jeanette Maier-Lytle** is recruiting for the IMA case competition team. She has two students interested, but she needs more. She is waiting for more information from the IMA on rules and guidelines for the 2022 competition. She thanked Circle members for allowing her case teams to practice with them.

Financial Reports- **Brian McGuire** discussed the financials. All of the numbers are up as of end of August. The BKD account is not a scholarship; it funds student travel and other activities. Some student activities are virtual while others are in person. **McGuire** thanked members for their involvement. Even though enrollment is down, members still make an impact on the individual students and the accounting profession.

Internships Report- **Jennifer Riester** noted internships are vitally important for student skill development. There were 60 business internships, and about half were in accounting. Most were part time, most were filled by juniors and seniors, and the average salary was about $17 an hour. **Riester** asked members to let her know if they don't see their company on her internships report as well as to work with her on setting up internships. **McGuire** emphasized the importance of tracking internships for AACSB accreditation and placement rates.

Speaking Eagles Toastmasters- **Zach Fuller** gave the update on USI Speaking Eagles Toastmasters. He noted the number of members and guests, but it is hard to grow membership when meetings are held virtually.

Beta Alpha Psi- **Mara Caldieraro** said this semester BAP focused on volunteer work and inviting guest speakers. Speakers included Alumni Relations and Volunteer USI Director Janet Johnson as well as representatives from DOZ, Becker, Blue & Co., BKD, and Tristate Orthopedics. The BAP chapter earned highest ranking. BAP members may try to speak to some high school classes.

Accounting & Professional Services Club- **Malaika Stewart** reported APS Club does a lot of their activities along with BAP. They are still figuring out the impact on attendance of having Zoom versus in-person meetings.

DEAN'S REMARKS

Cathy Carey thanked everyone for their continued dedication to our Accounting program and to the Romain College of Business. She mentioned this is our year of record and that everything we do this year is very important; everything we have done in the past five years is important. She noted the Accounting faculty meet their qualifications. We are using feedback to create change within the curriculum. We are following our strategic plan. The Accounting program has a separate strategic plan that aligns very well with the College's. **Carey** mentioned new Accounting faculty member, **YuangYuang Xue**, and gave **Xue's** education and background. She credited leadership roles in the accreditation process to **Andy Dill**, Strategic Planning Committee Chair, and **Brett Bueltel**, Assurance of Learning Committee Chair.

CLOSING REMARKS AND MEETING ADJOURNED

McGuire thanked members of the Accounting Circle. **Carroll** thanked members for their participation and encouraged everyone to attend the Extravaganza, immediately following in Carter Hall.