

**USI Romain College of Business
Accounting Circle Meeting Minutes
12 p.m., April 25, 2024, BE3025**

Members Present: Derek Adams, Carlin Beckman, Amanda Bingemer, Michael Carroll, Bridgitte Danhauer, Tony Hiatt, Connie Wellmeier Lucas, Charlie Pride, Jr., Celeste Tabor, Rob Wedding

Members Absent: Jo Burke, Richard Campbell, Patrick Edwards, Brant Kennedy, Mark Miles, Brad Minor, Steve Mudd, Roger Orth, Nikki Roser, Ashley Schultz, Jeff Wilmes

Young Professionals Present: Emily Kendrick, Lauren Lively, Andrea Medcalf, Paige Psyllos, Jesse Reising, Braden Taylor

Young Professionals Absent: Clayton Allen, Ryan Clark, Cyndi Hines, Kyle Hoeing, Kendall Hurt, Amber Key, Brandon Metcalf, Cassie Muensterman, Kiersten Roberts, Zach Scott, Kelsey Spillman, Jason Warford

Ex-officio Members Present: Brian McGuire, Sudesh Mujumdar

Faculty Present: Thomas Noland

Communications Associate Present: Darla Perigo

Students Present: Keely Fuquay, Hope White

WELCOME, MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT, AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Bridgitte Danhauer welcomed everyone to the meeting. After individual introductions, **Danhauer** announced the members who were elected by e-vote for another three-year term: **Jo Burke, Bridgitte Danhauer, Connie Lucas, and Charlie Pride, Jr. Celeste Tabor is Chair-elect.**

MINUTES:

The Fall 2023 minutes were APPROVED as e-distributed. **Tony Hiatt** motioned and it was seconded by **Michael Carroll.**

DEAN'S REMARKS:

Sudesh Mujumdar presented about the Romain College of Business Center for Applied Business Technology. He talked about his vision for student competencies resulting from engagement at the Center and gave an update on the capital campaign. **Mujumdar, Brian McGuire, and Thomas Noland** talked about the skills of the students working in the Biometrix Discovery Lab and how it's already impacting the careers of some recent graduates. **Noland** gave examples of how the accounting and finance disciplines use applied technologies. **Bridgitte Danhauer** attended the Board of Advisors Spring meeting, and she shared that she enjoyed hearing how each of the business disciplines use the tools and technologies. She talked about our students scraping thousands of job postings in the TAP Lab to come up with the most desired skillsets. **Noland** said

curriculum changes are approved, meaning freshmen will be taking business classes sooner in their college career.

ACCOUNTING CIRCLE REPORT:

Thomas Noland recognized recent achievements of our students, faculty, and graduates. He congratulated Beta Alpha Psi president and accounting major **Keely Fuquay** for being the Romain College of Business Distinguished Graduate. **Jaeden Lengacher**, accounting and finance, is the recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award in Accounting. The three *Fired Up!* Award recipients in the fall semester were accounting majors. Two business graduates placed in the top ten in the State of Indiana on the CPA exam. **Dr. Ben Gu**, Assistant Professor of Accounting, received the Dean's Award for Excellence in Research. **Dr. Mark McKnight**, Professor of Accounting, was keynote speaker at Marshall Business Research Conference and was named Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Accounting, Ethics, and Public Policy. **Jeanette Maier-Lytle**, Instructor in Accounting, was the recipient of this year's Distinguished Accountant Award. **Dr. Brett Bueltel**, Associate Professor of Accounting, was a guest on WNIN's Newsmakers.

Noland reviewed an internship report. He mentioned enrollment numbers and told members about **Cindi Clayton's**, Instructor in Business Communication and High School Engagement Coordinator, new role. She will be doing outreach to area high schools in addition to teaching. She recently hosted more than 40 students on a campus visit to USI from Dugger-Union Community School.

Noland and **Brian McGuire** reviewed AACSB. It is now a six-year cycle, and the year of record will be 2027-28.

Accountants in the Classroom-Thomas Noland said speakers from FORVIS, Harding Shymanski, and Kemper have been on campus. He noted **Jeanette Maier-Lytle** took an accounting class to Berry Global for a tour.

Extravaganza-Paige Psyllos reviewed the event and is pleased with the very good turnout of students. In the student survey at the end of the evening, the Extravaganza got a 9.3 out of 10 rating; that is up from last year's rating of 8.6. An area of concern is lack of representation from professionals. There are usually 1-2 professionals per table, but this year it was difficult to seat even one professional per table. **Brian McGuire** suggested surveying the professionals for suggestions on what could improve their attendance. **Psyllos** plans to keep the same format for this year's Extravaganza. **McGuire** thanked those who attended and encouraged all members and their peers to attend. **Derek Adams** suggested expanding the Accounting Circle membership to more companies, and **Bridgitte Danhauer** said the goal is to e-vote in more members this summer.

Fundraising Event-Bridgitte Danhauer reported on fundraising for scholarships. The pledge for the Circle's new diversity scholarship is \$25,000 in five years, and it is currently at \$600. The fall fundraiser was dessert tables with company signage and representatives. It made a few hundred dollars. **Thomas Noland** thought the date was not good timing because of several accounting events happening around the same time. There

was some discussion on when to have fundraising events and what events would be successful. **Amanda Bingemer** suggested a t-shirt fundraiser, where firms and companies pay to have their logo printed on the back of t-shirts, but we'll need company buy-in.

High School Day Case Competition-Bridgitte Danhauer gave the update. Last year was a record attendance of high school students, creating two pools of teams presenting. We're very excited about this year's competition and looking for volunteers.

Merit Badge University-Tony Hiatt thanked **Carlin Beckman, Bridgitte Danhauer, Emily Kendrick,** and **Connie Lucas** who volunteered at the February event. There were about 12 students. We may add curriculum for another badge. **Brian McGuire** thanked the volunteers and mentioned that for some of the participants it is not only the first time they've been to USI, but it's the first college campus they've visited. **Danhauer** said they will be asking for volunteers.

Young Professionals-Jesse Reising said the Young Professionals will hold elections for new members this summer.

Distinguished Accountant Award-Michael Carroll will chair the committee this fall and will be soliciting nominations in July. **Brian McGuire** thanked **Carroll** for continuing to chair this event.

Beta Alpha Psi and Accounting & Professional Services Club-Keely Fuquay reported that Beta Alpha Psi has 22 active members. There were a lot of volunteer activities. **Alex Perry**, BAP President-elect, will be going to the BAP Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, in July. Their chapter reports are due June 1. **Hope White** reported APS Club has about 18 active members who were involved in many volunteer activities. IMA chapter reports were submitted in October and March.

Financials-Brian McGuire reviewed the financials included in the meeting packet.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Bridgitte Danhauer has sign-up sheets for volunteers. It is her last meeting as Chair, so **Brian McGuire** thanked her for her invaluable service to the Circle and to USI, and he presented her with gifts from Romain College of Business and USI Alumni Association. **Amanda Bingemer** begins her term as Chair. There was general discussion on expanding membership.