

**USI Romain College of Business  
Accounting Circle Meeting Minutes  
4:00 p.m., May 19, 2020 via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Derek Adams, Jo Burke, Michael Carroll, Bridgitte Danhauer, Carolyn Dearmond, Steve Mudd, Charlie Pride, Jr.

**Members Absent:** Amanda Bingemer, Richard Campbell, Mark Freeman, Mitch Happe, Kerry Jackson, Brant Kennedy, Mark Miles, Brad Minor, Roger Orth, Nikki Roser, Ashley Schultz, Rob Wedding, Connie Wellmeyer Lucas, Jeff Wilmes, Chris Wolking

**Young Professionals Present:** Anna Bullock, Kyle Hoeing, Paige McClellan, Emily Nurrenbern, Lauren Perigo, Jesse Reising, Kiersten Roberts, Kelsey Spillman, Celeste Tabor

**Young Professionals Absent:** Bryce Bullock, Tony Hiatt, Matt Mitchell, Jazmine Skelton, Jason Warford

**Ex-officio Members Present:** Cathy Carey, Brian McGuire

**Faculty Present:** Brett Bueltel, Manfen Chen, Tereesha Patterson, Jennifer Riester, Thomas Weber

**Communications Associate Present:** Darla Perigo

**Guests Present:** Janet Johnson, Thomas Noland

**WELCOME AND MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**Steve Mudd** welcomed all to the meeting. There are two new members, **Amanda Bingemer** and **Ashley Schultz**, each appointed to a three-year term. The members elected to additional three-year terms are **Carolyn Dearmond**, **Brad Minor** and **Chris Wolking**. **Bridgitte Danhauer** is elected to Chair-elect.

**MINUTES:**

The Fall 2019 minutes were **APPROVED** as e-distributed.

**ACCOUNTING CIRCLE CHAIR'S REPORT:**

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

**Young Professionals- Kiersten Roberts** asked for nominations for new members to the Young Professionals. There are several openings for members, but there is a limit of three per company. **Mudd** asked members to nominate individuals who would be a good fit. There was no fundraising event this year. They were unable to coordinate an event with Beta Alpha Psi in January, and the April event was canceled when campus closed due to the pandemic. They hope to hold an event in the fall soon after classes begin.

**High School Day Case and Individual Competition-** **Bridgitte Danhauer** reported that the committee has put together three proposals for the 2020 event: 1) Postpone the competition to spring; 2) Virtual submissions, an options that will require a lot of logistics to think through; 3) Skip the fall 2020 competition and resume it in fall 2021. USI Admissions is working on a fourth proposal. **Danhauer** said there is not necessarily a favored proposal or direction at this time. **Michael Carroll** suggested reconvening in July or August when there is more knowledge of what fall will look like on campus. **Brian McGuire** suggested repurposing an IMA case if it will speed along that part of the planning process. He was pleased to report that a High School Day scholarship winner is enrolled as an accounting major this fall. **Mudd** appreciates **Danhauer's** and **Amanda Bingemer's** contribution and how well done the competition is.

**Extravaganza-** **Derek Adams** reported **Anna Bullock** chaired the event. **Adams** thanked Circle members who participated. The students enjoy networking and learning about careers in the field of accounting. There is no date for the Extravaganza or the Accounting Circle fall meeting, which are held on the same date. The committee is waiting to see how gatherings are permitted on campus in the fall; therefore, Carter Hall is not reserved at this time. **Mudd** agreed that the Extravaganza went very well.

**Merit Badge University-** **Danhauer** said it was the second successful year with 18 Boy Scouts in attendance. Four completed their badge. She thanked **Tony Hiatt** and **Bingemer** for attending that day, as well as **Bryce Bullock** and **Celeste Tabor** for assisting prior to the event. They will pursue Merit Badge University in 2021. **McGuire**, who is on the Board, said Merit Badge University is being planned for February 2021; it may be virtual or it may be on the USI campus. He believes it is a very beneficial activity for the community and for the Romain College of Business. **Mudd** thanked **Danhauer** for participating.

**Distinguished Accountant Report-** **Rob Wedding** was the past year's recipient. **Mudd** explained what the Distinguished Accountant Award is, what the selection criteria is for earning it, and who the committee is made up of. **McGuire** suggested reminding **Wedding** that as the recipient, he is this year's chair of that committee. Solicitations for nominees takes place in the summer.

**Faculty Internships-** **McGuire** said there were none the past year and none are scheduled for the upcoming year. If any employers are interested, please let him know. **Mudd** commented it has been a successful program in the past and hopes it will start again. **McGuire** said it is one way for faculty members to maintain their qualifications toward accreditation.

## **DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING PROGRAM'S REMARKS**

**Case Competition Teams-** **Brett Bueltel** co-advised this year's team with **Jeanette Maier-Lytle**, and they were surprised the team did not advance to the finals. The video the team shot was very well done, and they spent many hours coming up with a solution to the case. The team was comprised of five students, two of whom were members of last

year's team. **McGuire** reminded members that USI has made the finals ten out of the last twelve years, and has won the national championship five times. He thanked **Bueltel** and **Maier-Lytle** for the outstanding record and for continuing to support our students.

**Financial Reports-** **McGuire** reviewed the financials that were emailed to members. The funds in the BKD account have not been spent because the three student events it normally pays for were or will be held virtually. Therefore, the balance in the account has increased and will continue to grow for next year. The Dan Wade Scholarship balance is higher because it has not been paid out at this point, and the Roxy Baas Scholarship balance has grown significantly. Members may want to consider disbursing numerous scholarships from the Roxy Baas fund. The Accounting Circle Fifth Year Scholarship has grown substantially and is now fully endowed. **McGuire** suggested the Circle may want to establish a new scholarship and decide on its purpose. **Carroll** would like some ideas before the next meeting in order to keep this moving forward.

**Internships Report-** **Jennifer Riester** reported 23 known internships for fall 2019 and spring 2020. Some were affected by the pandemic, but the majority of students she spoke with said they completed enough hours to gain experience. She is waiting to see what firms will do about fall recruitment efforts. Summer internships depend on state guidelines and what each company decides about their workforce. Unfortunately there are a lot of factors affecting internships now. She has heard from students that their internship was unaffected while others were cancelled. Students can now self report internships in Career Launch job postings using the Experiential Learning form.

**Accountants in the Classroom-** **Brian Routh**, who previously oversaw Accountants in the Classroom, has accepted a position out of state, so the program is in need of a chair. **McGuire** encouraged members to continue participating. The professionals can have a great impact on a student's decision to pursue accounting. **Mudd** and **Carroll** both enjoy participating and encouraged other members.

**Speaking Eagles Toastmasters-** **Thomas Weber** said overall there were fewer participants. The spring semester was problematic, but there were two online meetings. It can be done online next semester if necessary. There is a full slate of officers, and there is a meeting scheduled the week before classes begin in the fall. **Carroll** wants students to participate in Toastmasters and will help by scheduling Circle members to attend meetings. **McGuire** reminded members that USI had the first collegiate chapter of Toastmasters, commented that it helps USI student teams do well in business case competitions, and expressed appreciation to Circle members for their continued involvement and support. Toastmasters is open to any USI student. He thanked **Weber** for his commitment as the faculty advisor.

**Beta Alpha Psi-** **McGuire** reported the BAP chapter received superior chapter designation last year. BAP participated in numerous events in the fall and some in the spring. The USI chapter was selected to present at the regional meeting in Milwaukee. The meeting was canceled, so instead the students submitted a virtual best practices case. Meet the Firms night, one of the biggest fundraisers, did not occur in the spring as it

usually does, but **McGuire** reported BAP still has a strong treasury. They are looking forward to the fall semester. BAP is making adjustments to certain member and chapter requirements and deadlines because of the abbreviated spring semester.

**Accounting & Professional Services Club-** **McGuire** reported the APS Club received gold status last year. They had a successful fall, and they were involved along with BAP in numerous activities. Because of the abbreviated spring semester, IMA may also make adjustments to certain requirements.

**VolunteerUSI-** **Janet Johnson** thanked members for serving on the Circle and for all they do for Romain College. She gave a brief history of VolunteerUSI. USI topped more than 2 million hours of volunteer work a couple of years ago, which equated to more than \$54 million contributed in volunteer hours. There is a recognition dinner for volunteers who reach 20 hours or more. Hours are also reported for the University's Carnegie designation. Volunteers can self-report hours online. **Mudd** thanked **Johnson** for the presentation.

### **DEAN'S REMARKS**

**Cathy Carey** thanked members for their dedication. She talked briefly about plans for reopening campus on July 6, and employees will return in waves. There may be more information soon about what the structure of the fall semester looks like, but everything remains fluid at this time. There won't be information about the budget until late June. There is a lot of planning, but there are a lot of unknowns.

Romain College has a new strategic plan that was passed by the faculty. There will be a separate one for the accounting program. The College's proposed reorganization has been delayed at least another year. She talked about the change in the College's MATH215 requirement effective fall 2021. The consensus is to replace it with data analytics, and a committee is working on how to build that into the College's curriculum.

**Carey** introduced and welcomed **Thomas Noland**, the new chair of accounting and finance. **Noland** comes to USI from the College of Charleston. She expressed appreciation to **Manfen Chen** for her stellar work as interim chair and congratulated her on a job well done, as well as for being promoted to professor of finance. **Noland** said he looks forward to officially starting at USI in August, and his number one priority is increasing student enrollment. **Mudd** thanked **Carey** and welcomed **Noland**.

### **CLOSING REMARKS AND MEETING ADJOURNED**

Today's meeting is **Mudd's** last as chair of the Accounting Circle. He called it an honor to have served and appreciated everyone's support. He 'handed the torch' to **Carroll**, who begins a two-year term as chair. **McGuire** thanked **Mudd** for his service, thanked **Carey** for her leadership the past year, thanked **Chen** for a fantastic job, and welcomed **Noland**. **Carroll** closed the meeting by thanking members, and emphasized that there is a greater need now more than ever to be involved and help the College.