

**USI Romain College of Business  
Accounting Circle Meeting Minutes  
4 p.m., April 20, 2021 via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Derek Adams, Amanda Bingemer, Jo Burke, Michael Carroll, Bridgitte Danhauer, Carolyn Dearmond, Brant Kennedy, Connie Wellmeyer Lucas, Mark Miles, Steve Mudd, Charlie Pride, Roger Orth, Ashley Schultz, Rob Wedding, Jeff Wilmes

**Members Absent:** Richard Campbell, Mark Freeman, Mitch Happe, Kerry Jackson, Brad Minor, Nikki Roser, Chris Wolking

**Young Professionals Present:** Bryce Bullock, Ryan Clark, Kyle Hoeing, Amber Key, Paige McClellan, Lauren Perigo, Jesse Reising, Kiersten Roberts, Zach Scott, Celeste Tabor, Kelsey Spillman

**Young Professionals Absent:** Anna Bullock, Tony Hiatt, Cyndi Hines, Jason Warford

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

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

**Communications Associate Present:** Darla Perigo

**Guests Present:** Patrick Edwards

**Students Present:** David Bradley, Thomas Busche, Joseph Crawley, Zach Fuller, Malaika Stewart, Nicholas Ziemer

**MINUTES:**

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

**WELCOME AND MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**Michael Carroll** welcomed all to the meeting. Members elected to an additional three-year term are **Jo Burke, Richard Campbell, Bridgitte Danhauer, Mark Miles, Roger Orth, Charlie Pride, Nikki Roser, Connie Lucas** and **Jeff Wilmes**. **Carroll** welcomed **Patrick Edwards**, VP and Controller, Shoe Carnival, Inc., who was elected as a new member, and **Edwards** gave a brief introduction.

**ACCOUNTING CIRCLE CHAIR'S REPORT:**

**Carroll, Bridgitte Danhauer, Brian McGuire** and **Thomas Noland** met and discussed having a “get fired up” session on campus to motivate students to become more active in student organizations. It will depend on University guidelines on in-person events.

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

**Young Professionals-** **Kiersten Roberts** said there are 15 members, and ten are up for renewal. Over the summer she will take nominations for new members in the fall. The Young Professionals committees have been established.

**Accountants in the Classroom-** **Carroll** explained this program for new members. There were six sessions last fall, but there were none this spring. He expects to do them again in the fall, and he encouraged members to participate.

**High School Day Case and Individual Competition-** **Danhauer** gave an overview of the High School Day event held in 2019. The decision was made to cancel High School Day in 2020. Planning needs to get underway for 2021. **Carroll** said it is critical to have connections with the high schools. There needs to be a chair and volunteers for this event, and planning sessions will be scheduled.

**Extravaganza-** **Carroll** said there were about 7-8 mentorships set up as a result of the virtual Extravaganza, which was held during a joint meeting of APS Club and Beta Alpha Psi.

**Merit Badge University-** **Danhauer** thanked the team that assisted with the Boy Scouts Merit Badge University in February. It was held virtually, in three 2-hour sessions. Thirteen Scouts attended, and one has completed the tasks to earn his badge. **Danhauer's** team provides the personal finance curriculum. **McGuire** thanked her and her team for the PR for USI as well as the important skills provided.

**Distinguished Account Award-** There was no in-person Extravaganza last fall, so the Distinguished Accountant Award will be incorporated into this fall's Extravaganza / Open House event. Nomination forms will come out in the summer. **McGuire** reminded **Rob Wedding** he is the chair of the committee, which is made up of past award recipients.

**Fundraising Event-** **Roberts** reported Meet the Firms and the fall fundraiser may be combined into one event. It will be organized similar to the fall fundraiser and held on campus, preferably outdoors in September, following University guidelines.

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

**Noland** presented a list of students graduating with honors, noting the accounting majors. A curriculum change in the fall is a business data analytics course. He reviewed the strategic plan for the accounting program. The priorities are increasing the number of accounting majors, enhancing the reputation of the accounting program and improving diversity. The Master of Science in Accounting may relaunch as an online program in Fall 2023. **Noland** would like to see improved CPA pass rates as well as USI become an IMA endorsed program.

**VITA Tax Program-** **Brett Bueltel** has served as site coordinator for the VITA program for four years. He explained the program for those who may not be familiar with it. USI's

site is unique in that students receive course credit. It differs from an internship; while there may not be complex tax concepts, students get one-on-one professional interaction with clients. He reviewed statistics on how many clients are assisted by this program, and he showed photos of the protocols in place during the pandemic. He said the students did an outstanding job handling the protocols. He hopes that Circle members who hire these students will see they have an edge when it comes to client interaction. **Noland** thanked **Buettel** and the students.

**Case Competition Teams-** **Jeanette Maier-Lytle** advised two teams this semester: IMA and Alberta-Not-For-Profit. She explained the IMA timeline. **Joseph Crawley** talked about the case they worked on. He said all team meetings were via Zoom, which was a challenge, but they did their best. **David Bradley** said analyzing the case was good for him because he is planning to go to law school. He enjoyed the team format and coming up with their best solutions. He mentioned the Screegle Mentoring Program and that students appreciate it. **Maier-Lytle** said the IMA team will not be coming to the firms to practice this year, but hopefully next year they will (if they make it to the “Final Four” of the competition.)

**Maier-Lytle** said the ANFP was the first virtual competition she has coached. There were 16 teams globally. **Leo Ziemer** said all of the team’s practices were via Zoom. There were issues, but he learned a lot and met people from around the world. **Maier-Lytle** said there was a social event for the coaches. She thanked the students, none of whom had participated in a competition before. **Carroll** said the students from both teams are very impressive.

**Financial Reports-** **Brian McGuire** discussed the financials. The Accounting Circle CPA Eligibility Scholarship is fully endowed. There needs to be a decision made whether to start a new scholarship or continue funding this one. He reported the figures on the other scholarships. **Carroll** said there will be more discussion on these scholarships in the near future.

**Noland** showed a document of scholarship awards paid out. **McGuire** thanked Circle members for their support of our students.

**Internships Report-** **Jennifer Riester** reviewed the Fall 2020-Spring 2021 internships numbers. Most were part-time internships, and some were for college credit. These are the internships that she knows about. She showed the results of the graduating students’ career placement survey. They are sending the survey to students just prior to graduation in hopes of getting a better response rate. They are enlisting the chairs’ help to encourage students to complete the survey. Overall more employers are reaching out to her office with jobs and internship opportunities.

**Speaking Eagles Toastmasters-** **Zach Fuller** gave the update on USI Speaking Eagles Toastmasters. Their attendance was down. Some members graduated in the fall, and the club experienced a low student turn out most likely due to the virtual environment. He expects to have a rebound in participation in the fall. **Carroll** thanked him for his efforts.

**Beta Alpha Psi-** **Thomas Busche** said meetings have been difficult because students want in-person networking rather than sitting on a Zoom call. New members were initiated, but overall there is a slight decline which **Busche** expects to change once in-person meetings resume. BAP is on track to receive Superior Chapter status. **Busche** thanked those who made the Extravaganza possible virtually in the fall and said it went over well with students. He said many students commented that they enjoyed the Q & A session with panelists. He thanked **Jeanette Maier-Lytle** for providing names of potential speakers for BAP meetings. One of the advantages of having virtual meetings is guests are not limited geographically; they can speak from anywhere. BAP had speakers from the Louisville area and a USI alumni from the FBI who is in Washington, D.C. BAP held a joint meeting with the Louisville BAP chapter. The annual Meet the Firms event was cancelled. After speaking with numerous firms, the general consensus was that it wasn't going to be the best event possible for students. **Carroll** thanked **Busche** for his leadership.

**Accounting & Professional Services Club-** **Malaika Stewart** reported APS Club gained four members. All reporting has been submitted, and the club is on track to receive an award of Excellent.

### **DEAN'S REMARKS**

**Cathy Carey** said there is hope that the fall semester will look a little closer to normal on campus. The class schedule for fall is very flexible. She thanked members for attending the meeting as well as **Carroll** and the accounting faculty for their leadership. She is pleased that **Thomas Busche** will enter the MBA program; it helps keep top students at the University for at least another year after they earn their undergraduate degree.

**Carey** said 2021-2022 is the year of record for the College in preparation for reaccreditation. She reviewed the strategic plan. Thought leadership is a new focus. The peer review team will be complete soon. When the team comes to campus in February or March 2023, they will focus on three things: faculty qualifications, the College's strategic plan, and an AOL process.

The University has a Screagles Mentoring Plan through USI Alumni Association for students to find mentors. Initially it was for alumni only, but it is now for friends of the College. Mentees (students) choose the mentors. A link to sign up to be a mentor will be emailed to Circle members.

**Carey** said there are several positions open in the various disciplines and a number of searches happening.

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

**Carroll** will follow up with Circle members to see what they would like to be involved in. **Noland** said he appreciated Circle members' participation. **McGuire** thanked members of the Accounting Circle, and he stated that the College is becoming well-prepared for accreditation.