



Romain College of Business - Board of Advisers Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 11, 2021
8:00 a.m. Zoom Meeting

Members Present: David Conner, Femi D Etti, Kevin Hammett, Teri Hollander Albin, Kerry Jackson, Alan Jones, Lindsey Nix, Bill Phlan, Eric Reffett, John Schroeder, Lisa Slade, Bill Theby

Ex-Officio Present: Brian McGuire

Faculty Present: Brett Beutel, Abbas Foroughi, Cristina Gilstrap, Curt Gilstrap, Nicolas Jankuhn, Zhe Li, Jiaying Liu, Josh McWilliams, Chad Milewicz, Tom Noland, Tim Schibik, Jack Smothers, Thomas Weber, Jinsuk Yang

Career Services: Jennifer Riester; Career Coordinator

RCOB Advising Center: Kristina Walker, Director

Administrative Associate present: Linda Dillbeck and Teresa Rynkiewich

Ms. Hollander Albin welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Approval of the Fall 2020 Minutes – Teri Hollander Albin

Approved by Board today as distributed.

Membership Committee Welcomes & Updates – Dave Conner

Renewal of Terms – thru Spring 2024

- Mr. James Muehlbauer, Vice Chairman of the Board, Koch Enterprises, Inc.

New Members – thru Spring 2024

- Lindsey Nix, Owner & VP of Marketing and Business Development, Nix Companies
- Kelly Reisinger, CIO Community Banking & Enterprise Shard Services, Old National Bank
- Kyle Winger, Vice President, Harding, Shymanski & Company, P.S.C.
- Bill Plahn, Executive Director of Human Resources, Bally's Corporation

Board Chair Remarks – Teri Hollander Albin

- Dr. Brian McGuire has been appointed as the Interim Dean of the Romain College of Business.
- Dr. Timothy Schibik was appointed Assistant Dean of the Romain College of Business.

- Dr. Jack Smothers was appointed Interim Assistant Dean of the Romain College of Business.
- Thank you to Dr. Cathy Carey for serving as the former Dean of the Romain College of Business. Dr. Carey will be moving back to a Faculty Position in the Department of Economics and will serve the university in other ways. During her service the Strategic Plan for RCOB was created and is being implemented and much progress has been made in preparation of re-accreditation.
- Mr. Dave Conner, CFO Anchor Industries, Inc., will serve as BOA Representative for the new Dean search through August 2022.
- Ms. Linda Dillbeck, Administrative Associate for RCOB will be resigning effective January 2022. The BOA is grateful for her support the past several years and wish her well in her retirement.

Business Engagement/Community Partnerships – Dr. Chad Milewicz (see attached)



- Dr. Milewicz gave a presentation on a proposal for enhanced Business Engagement and Community Partnerships for the RCOB. The proposal was well received by the BOA Business Leaders and RCOB Faculty members.
- William Theby announced he will extend an open invitation for students and faculty to tour Lensing Wholesale's distribution center.
- Kerry Jackson offered a tour Shoe Carnival's distribution center.
- Dr. Brian McGuire reported on a recent meeting of the RCOB Student Advisory Board.
 - They discussed different opportunities to interact with the business community.
 - Suggestion: RCOB could have their own Employer Fair, somewhat similar to USI's Career Fair, to strengthen the RCOB network with area employers.
- Jennifer Riester, Career Coordinator, USI Career Services and Internships, was asked to give a brief report on RCOB Internships.
- Dave Conner commented this discussion has been one of the best discussions the BOA has ever had. He suggested that if every BOA business member would commit to serving on one of the five committees, then that much could be accomplished.
- Kerry Jackson and the Industry/Education Interaction Committee will discuss BOA member opportunities as "Professionals in the Classroom" across Business curriculums. Ms. Hollander Albin and Mr. Jackson will coordinate a BOA Member and Faculty round table discussion for Spring to brainstorm how to structure and implement.
- Dr. McGuire asked that companies interested in participating should email Teresa Rynkiewich so a list could be compiled for future tours.



Finance Committee Update – Eric Reffett, Gen. Manager, ePackage Supply

- Mr. Reffett, Finance Committee Chair, reported on an earlier committee meeting where they discussed addressing the RCOB's needs. The committee is going to continue the discussion with Dr. McGuire, and Mr. Reffett encouraged others to volunteer to be on the finance committee.

Undergraduate Program Updates – Dr. Timothy Schibik

- Dr. Schibik reported on the Undergraduate Curriculum update.
 - BUAD online
 - Starting in Fall 2022, “Global Supply Chain Management” courses will be offered
 - “Agriculture Business” will continue to add classes in Fall 2022
 - “Project Management” and “Business Analytics” are two new classes to be offered
- Dr. Schibik introduced Kristina Walker, RCOB Advising Director, to discuss increasing admission and retention at USI.
 - Enrollment deposit (\$150 rolled into tuition)
 - Department Chairs are now emailing students
 - Videos will go out after Thanksgiving
 - Student Advisory Board want to play a larger role in the future

Graduate Program Updates – Jack Smothers

- Dr. Smothers said that we are adding a “Marketing” concentration in the MBA Program
- Dr. Smothers discussed potential partnerships with area organizations.
- The USI MBA Program has a very high retention rate (91%)

Dean’s Report

- Dr. McGuire thanked Dr. Carey for her service
- He gave a brief update on the future search for a new Dean.
- Dr. McGuire thanked Dr. Schibik and Dr. Smothers for helping during this period of change.
- He thanked the three Department Chairs and Dr. Thomas Weber and Dr. Jason Fertig for their leadership.

Board Discussion – Additional discussion included potentially calling a Roundtable Committee Meeting after the first of the year to develop a schedule.

- Encourage more members to join one of the committees.
- Discussed having “Professionals in the Classroom” (similar to the “Accountants in the Classroom” by the Accounting Circle).

Teri Hollander Albin adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.