**University of Hawai’i at Manoa**

**Shidler College of Business**

**School of Accountancy (SOA) Advisory Board**

**Minutes - June 3, 2015**

**Attendees:**

**Board Members:** Terri Fujii (Chair), Carey Carpenter, Isaac Choy, Gordon Tom, Rodney Harano, Brent Igawa, Kent Kasaoka, Kurt Kawafuchi, Gary Nishikawa, Karen Silverstein, Michael Tanaka, Carleton Williams, and Edwin Young,

**Faculty and Staff:** Dean Vance Roley, Hamid Pourjalali (Director), Boochun Jung, Jana Light, Thomas Pearson, David Wang, Mary Woollen, and Marlene Sagapolutele

**Students:** Paul Edra and Min Seo from BAP; Ivonne Lee, Tori Tokunaga, and Dahvon Siongco from Accounting Club.

The meeting of the SOA Advisory Board commenced at 7:30am. Chair Fujii provided a summary of the SOA’s efforts to reconnect with the downtown community, including the Director of SOA’s meetings with most of the firms, the enhanced SOA Advisory Board, and SOA’s 32nd Anniversary celebration. She thanked everyone for their participation and noted that there will be 3 SOA Advisory Board meetings for the 2015 – 2016 academic year.

Dean Roley provided a report on the great success of Business Night, the number of graduates from Shidler, the success of Shidler faculty, the quality of admitted freshman, and revenues obtained from Shidler programs.

**Summary report on Curriculum development:**

Director Pourjalali and Professor Pearson discussed the most significant changes in the curriculum, including adding an undergraduate capstone course (with an emphasis on accounting skills) and changes in graduate classes from 3 to 2 credit hours to allow for more subject areas. The SOA will provide weekend classes for Construction Accounting, Governmental Accounting, and a CPA review course.

**Summary report on PhD program:**

Professor Wang provided a review of the current status of the PhD students in Shidler College with an Accounting focus. Two new PhD students with an accounting focus were admitted this spring. Two others are expected to graduate. The job market for PhD graduates continues to be positive. One of the first PhD graduates from Shidler obtained a Full Professorship at his current university in California.

**Government Accounting:**

Director Pourjalali and SOA Advisory Board member Young discussed the development of a 15 contact hours course on governmental accounting. The help of SOA Advisory Board member Silverstein was also acknowledged. The program, to be initiated in August, will be open to students and professionals. The course for the first year is expected to be free of charge and offered as a 1-credit course to current students. If students take the course for credit, it will have a Credit/no Credit grading policy. CPEs and certificates will be given. The course will become a part of SOA’s permanent offerings if it is considered a success in its first offering. Some members of the SOA advisory board suggested that if SOA charged for the class, students and attendees may be more committed to attending the classes.

**Construction Accounting:**

Director Pourjalali and Board member Williams reported on the curriculum for a course in Construction Accounting. The course will be offered by inviting guest speakers with appropriate insights in the area. The offering will be similar to the governmental accounting course discussed above.

Director Pourjalali suggested that these courses should draw a lot of student interest, but he was unsure of interest from Downtown. These courses will be broad based and will be useful to students who have an interest in Governmental/Construction Accounting. Williams suggested perhaps offering the course for free to the first 20 students who register.

**CPA Review Offering:**

Instructor Woollen provided statistical background data on CPA exam results from NASBA for UH Manoa graduates. In 2012, the number of first time candidates was 126; the pass rate was 46.9%. In 2014, the number of candidates taking the exam within a year of graduation was 26; the pass rate was only 34.9%. She mentioned a meeting with students and alumni provided evidence that there is a strong interest in Hawaii to have some form of help to prepare for CPA exam.

Instructor Woollen suggested giving supplementary materials to students who already have materials and give low cost materials (Gleim) to students with no materials. To make sure students are committed, she suggested that only students who started the process of obtaining NTS (a Notice to Sit for the CPA Exam) may participate in the CPA prep classes. The students must also agree to provide the results of their tests so SOA can track progress and obtain data. SOA’s long-term objective should be to make sure that students set appropriate time aside to study for CPA exam as part of their regular curriculum towards completion of their degrees. Concern was also expressed that undergraduate students do not take ACC 415 and ACC 407, material that is needed to pass the CPA exam.

Professor Pearson emphasized that a contributing factor for lack of student interest in additional upper level courses is the State Board of Accountancy’s counting Acc 201 and 202 for the mandatory accounting credit hours for the CPA exam. The requirement used to be 24 hours of upper division accounting credit hours. Students already obtain 18 credit hours of upper division credits without needing to take ACC 415 and ACC 407.

As students are not familiar with the CPA requirements, it was suggested that appropriate videos or files (e.g., PowerPoint presentation on the CPA examination) be posted on the SOA website. The HSCPA can help the SOA to develop such presentations. Organizations such as the Y-CPAs can help to educate and provide assistance to students wanting to take CPA exam, but more assistance is needed.

At 8:30 am, faculty and staff of Shidler College of Business were excused so board could meet with the representatives of BAP and Accounting Club.

The students were asked if there was an interest in the government and construction courses. They believe there will be some interest but the timing may not be ideal based on when the summer session ends and the fall semester starts.

The students noted that students may not have time to take these additional courses. It was suggested that the clubs look at the requirements placed on students who then have to juggle their course work, part-time jobs, internships, studying for the exam, and meeting the requirements of the clubs. The students did not believe that the club requirements were overly burdensome.

The students did note that they need more career guidance as they do not know much about the profession, the various industries, and how to identify opportunities. Their counselors are more academic counselors, and not necessarily career counselors.

The clubs were also asked about admitting the freshmen into the clubs. The difficulty in doing such for BAP is the national requirements for membership, including having a minimum GPA.

The meeting concluded at 9:00am.