



Accounting Advisory Committee

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Advisor Attendees: Nick Bilotta, CPA

Advisors Absent: Kendyl Prosser
Janelle vonBirgelen
Suzan Shayler

Staff: Lucas Rucks, Associate VP of Instruction
Carl Roer, Accounting Faculty, Shoreline Community College
Jennifer Nelson, Secretary Senior, Business, Comm. Studies, and Social Sciences

Minutes Approved by Board: 6/6/25

4:00 Meeting Began / Welcome and Introductions

Meeting Recap:

Discussion of the agenda for the next Accounting Advisory Committee meeting, introductions, goals, and curriculum updates, with a focus on the importance of industry feedback in shaping the program. The importance of networking, the need for a more structured approach to internships, and the impact of the pandemic on the college's operations was also discussed. Lastly, they reviewed the learning outcomes of their accounting series, provided an overview of the college's student population and enrollment trends, and discussed upcoming recruiting events and the potential for incorporating AI into the curriculum.

Next Steps:

- Carl to set a date for the spring advisory meeting in May, preferably on a Monday or Wednesday.
- Lucas to send Nick invitations for upcoming recruiting events.
- Nick to send job postings for part-time entry-level roles to Lucas for distribution to students.
- Carl to recruit one or two more people to join the advisory committee.
- Nick to reach out to small firm owners in Bellingham and Seattle about joining the advisory committee.
- Carl and Lucas to incorporate AI and technology discussions into future curriculum planning.

- Carl to continue updating learning outcomes for accounting courses.
- Lucas to facilitate discussions on field-based learning opportunities in future meetings.
- Advisory committee to provide feedback on technology and industry changes in future meetings.
- Next Advisory Committee meeting to include discussion topic- How to use AI and how to do so responsibly.

Meeting Summary

- Discussion of the agenda for the May Accounting Advisory Committee Meeting to include goals and curriculum updates.
- Carl shared his background in banking and his enjoyment of teaching.
- New Board member, Nick Bilotta, expressed his willingness to assist in recruiting additional members for the committee.
- The conversation ended with the understanding that the next meeting would focus on Accounting Program goals and directions of the program.

Nick's Accounting Journey and Insights

Nick shared his journey from being a non-traditional student to becoming an accountant. He initially studied at Daytona Beach Community College and later transferred to Stetson University, where he earned a bachelor's and master's degree in accounting. Nick then worked for James Moore and Company, a regional firm in Florida, before moving to Seattle. He worked for Peterson Sullivan, a firm that offered him a job after a casual meeting. Nick then moved to Zulily, where he was part of a transaction that led to his role wrapping up. He then started his own assurance and consulting firm, focusing on nonprofits and contractors. He also mentioned his interest in building a tax practice. Lucas appreciated Nick's insights and saw potential benefits for their students.

Industry Feedback and Curriculum Relevance

Lucas led a discussion about the importance of industry feedback in shaping the curriculum and ensuring the program remains relevant. He emphasized the need for minimal time commitment from the advisory committee, though the importance of the advisory committee's voice, guidance, and direction at these meetings. The conversation also touched on the need for updated technology in computer labs and the potential for guest presentations and internships. Carl presented an overview of the program's certificate offerings, and Nick suggested incorporating AI into the curriculum to prepare students for the changing job market. The team agreed on the need for further exploration of AI's role in accounting and its potential benefits for students.

Accounting Program Goals and Partnerships

Discussion of goals for the accounting program at Shoreline Community College. The main goals included increasing enrollment in accounting programs, establishing partnerships with industry, and enhancing the accounting program over time. The importance of networking and the need for a more structured approach to internships was also discussed. The conversation also touched on the impact of the pandemic on the college's operations, with a shift from in-person to online learning. The team agreed to make the discussion about technology and its responsible use a topic for future meetings.

Accounting Course Outcomes and Engagement

Carl discussed his teaching of an asynchronous online course on income tax, mentioning the challenges of assessing student engagement. Lucas then asked Carl to update on the learning outcomes of their accounting series, which Carl explained involved revising outcomes for introductory and principles of accounting courses. Carl outlined the specific outcomes for each course, including transactions, general ledger entries, financial statements, partnerships, corporations, cost accounting, budgeting, and decision making. He also mentioned that revenue recognition and leases were covered in one of the courses. The team agreed to revise outcomes for all their accounting courses in the next year or so.

College Enrollment Trends and Growth

Lucas provided an overview of the college's student population and enrollment trends. The student body is highly diverse, with a large ESL and refugee population, as well as about 600 international students per quarter. Approximately 55% of students plan to transfer to universities, while 45% seek college credit for immediate employment. Unlike nearby community colleges, this institution has more full-time students. Enrollment has increased for eight consecutive quarters, with a recent return of the 17-22 age group, particularly among male students. The college offers 6-9 accounting classes per quarter and is hiring another full-time accounting instructor to join Carl and 2-3 part-time instructors.

Recruiting Events and Advisory Meeting Plans

Lucas discussed upcoming recruiting events on March 4th and in April, inviting Nick to participate as a local employer. Nick can't attend the March 4th event due to a client audit but might send team members. A spring advisory meeting will happen in on either a Monday or a Wednesday if possible. Lucas offers to share Nick's job postings with accounting instructors and explains the use of Handshake for job listings. The group discusses the importance of connecting education to jobs and incorporating AI into the curriculum. Nick offers to reach out to other small firm owners who might be interested in joining the advisory committee.

Meeting ended: 4:47pm