**University of Hawai`i at Manoa**

**Shidler College of Business**

**School of Accountancy Advisory Board**

**Minutes of the School of Accountancy Advisory Board, November 29, 2017**

**Attendees:**

**Board Members:** Terri Fujii (Chair), Isaac Choy, Brenda Cutright, Calvin Hangai, Shawn Hasegawa, Brent Igawa, Kent Kasaoka, Cindy Lam, Larry Rodriguez, Lucas Sayin, Valerie Shintaku, Karen Silverstein, Howard Todo, Carleton L. Williams, Danny Wong, Edwin Young

**Faculty and Staff:** Vance Roley (Dean), Hamid Pourjalali (Director), Shirley Daniel, Nina Harioka, Unyong Nakata, Thomas Pearson, Mohsen Sharifi, Jenny Teruya, Mary Woollen, Jian Zhou

**Students:** Michael Jitchaku (Accounting Club President), Adam Buote (A/C), Jacob Baysa (BAP and A/C), and Ken Kajihiro (BAP)

Chair Fujii opened the meeting, welcomed everyone to the SOA Advisory Board, and invited Dean Roley to provide updates about the Shidler College.

Chair Fujii asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Chair Fujii invited Dean Roley to provide comments to Board members. Dean Roley discussed how Jay Shidler’s gift is being used and why external support is still important, he further explained how both Shidler Advisory Council and Shidler Alumni Association boards, have implemented board giving with much success and discussed the new developments in the College. In his continued remarks, Dean Roley emphasized that Schools of Accountancy have their own funds and are supported by the accounting profession nationwide.

Chair Fujii, then asked Director Pourjalali to discuss the Hawaii Accounting Research Conference (HARC). Director Pourjalali indicated that the conference has so far been more successful than expected, it has gotten worldwide attention and supported by excellent universities from seven countries, and the quality of the research papers and panels are amongst the best and more timely topics. Pearson and Daniel discussed HARC’s Blockchain Panel and its membership. Pourjalali thanked Dean Roley for his future financial support of the conference and invited all members of the Advisory Board to join the conference at the discounted rate of $50.00.

Chair Fujii asked Dean Roley to discuss the Director’s Circle initiative and how this fundraising effort should help the SOA. Dean Roley indicated that donors supporting the SOA with gifts of $500 **or more** between June 30 and July 1 (each fiscal year) are recognized as SOA Director’s Circle. Dean hoped that SOA Advisory Board would have a 100% participation. He indicated that these funds are used to meet important educational needs, funding for alumni outreach, offering new and current programs and helps with funding the new projects that the SOA implements. He also emphasized that when Board members support the SOA, their action will motivates others to do the same and strongly encourage Board members’ participation in Director’s Circle. Chair Fujii noted that the School has always had a fund available to use at its discretion, but that the level of funding has decreased over the years such that the balance has declined. She also noted that the fund increased when Director Pourjalali first became director of the Schools and asked the firms to contribute to the fund. Chair Fujii noted that she and Director Pourjalali have contributed to the fund and Director Pourjalali noted that several faculty have also contributed. Chair Fujii encouraged everyone to become a member of the Director’s Circle by contributing at least $500 each year. The Conference is another example of what the Director’s Circle funds can be used for to provide benefit to the School, students, and profession.

Chair Fujii asked Director Pourjalali to describe the recent changes to the curriculum and asked about MAcc enrollment. Pearson indicated the need to require students to take additional accounting courses to be able to pass the CPA examination. Board members discussed the need and was suggested that accounting students, students’ advisors, accounting professionals, and the Board of Accountancy be advised about the need. The fact that the number of MAcc students has declined supports the recommendation. Two major issues have resulted in decline in MAcc applicants’ pool. One related to excellent accounting job market for those with undergraduate-in-accounting degrees, and the tuition for the MAcc ($20,000 to $25,000). In response to the question on MAcc tuition decrease, Dean Roley indicated that his discussion with Board of Regents has yet to result in such a decrease. It was further suggested that all schools offering accounting programs in the State of Hawaii (such as West Oahu) be contacted so MAcc can be considered by their students when they plan to get a graduate degree.

Chair Fujii asked Carl Williams to provide any updates with regard to the Board of Accountancy. Williams discussed the need to update the rules as it is outdated, that firms are scrambling to meet the peer review requirements, among other updates. There was also discussion about whether the 24 hours in accounting requirement was sufficient or should the 24 hours be in upper division courses such that ACC 201 and 202 would not count toward the 24 hours. Other states require 30 hours to include ACC 201 and 202. Williams noted that this had been discussed. The profession would need to support such a change and the courses would need to be available.

At 8:30 a.m., the faculty, staff and Dean Roley left the meeting so the Board could commence its meeting with the BAP and Accounting Club student-representatives. The discussion focused on the MAcc program and what encouraged or discouraged the students from entering the MAcc program.