



Engineering Alumni Society

Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA 19104

www.seas.upenn.edu/alumni/

Monday, July 18, 2016 6pm, Room 307 Levine

Attendees:

Dean Vijay Kumar		Robert Berkovits – D	X	Oladayo Adewole – AL	
Sevile Mannickarottu – Pres	X	Ernest Churchville – D		Sarah Badin – AL	
Dawn Becket – VP	T	Carl Clyde – D	X	Andrew Botelbo – AL	
Jim Brennan – VP	X	Hank Guckes – D	T	Lyle Brunhofer – AL	X
Paul McLaughlin – VP		Lauren Hedvat – D		Alison Capone – AL	
Jay Olman – Sec	X	Bernard Jones – D	T	Ashish Chauhan – AL	
Russ Miller – Tres	X	Jonathan Lombardo – D	X	Parth Chopra – AL	X
		William McGill – D		David Goldstein – AL	
Brad Abrams – PP		Jason Rifkin – D	X	Yijie Hu – AL	X
Eric Benshetler – PP	X	Craig Schorr – D	T	Ramsey Kraya – AL	X
Tim Carlsen – PP	T	Alan Schultz – D	X	Jeffrey Ng - AL	X
Farnia Fresnel – PP	T	Heather Stern – D	X	Matthew Serota – AL	
Marion Hubing – PP	X			Jane Fried Sheinfeld – AL	
Walter Korn – PP		Dane Carswell – AD		David Solomon – AL	
Dick Mulford – PP		Bill Kane – AD		Leah Suttner – AL	X
Matt Quale – PP	X	Nikos Lioutas – AD		Stan Warchaizer – AL	X
Harris Romanoff – PP		Harry Vartanian – AD			
				Ellie Davis – F/S	
				Gabrielle Gary – F/S	X
				George Hain – F/S	X
				Rosette Pyne – F/S	X

Positions:

Pres: President

VP: Vice President

Sec: Secretary

Tres: Treasurer

PP: Past President

D: Director

AD: Associate Director

AL: At Large Member

F/S: Penn Faculty/Staff

UG - Undergraduate



I. Call to Order (S. Mannickarottu)

- Called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

II. President's Welcome and Remarks (S. Mannickarottu)

- Welcome to the first meeting of my tenure—be kind
- Business Insider 100 listed BioBots as #65 on a list that includes Mark Zuckerberg (as #1) and the Uber founders
- Agenda has typo: next meeting is from 6-7, and not 6-730
- Noticed that the last 3 presidents were from class of '98, but Seville from '99
- Thanks Matt for making an easy transition, as well as predecessors
- BBQ date change to be discussed later
- Lauren Hedvat (not here tonight) will be receiving the Young Alumni of Merit Award this year
- Use the Google Form from email to update your contact information (Jay will track you down if you haven't done so)
- Calendar for the year approved

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Everyone – Update your contact information

III. Development Office Report (G. Hain)

- George presented Matt with a signed plaque for having served as president in a loyal and dedicated way over the past 3 years.
- Just finished a terrific year
- Most raised by a new dean
- Endowed 4 new chairs
- Goal is 20 chairs by 2020—11 now, 9 to go
- 3 for coming year that we're pretty certain about; 2 of 3 locked in
- \$50k grand challenge for 100 new donors for a total of 1921; got over 2k donors: congrats to Gabrielle
 - Highest percentage increase since George has been here

Open Action Items:



New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

IV. Career Services Report (R. Pyne)

- Collecting reservations for engineering career day; currently have 92 reservations, but hoping for 140
- Recently sent out alumni survey, but didn't get a large response; determining whether to continue sending out

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

V. Old Business:

a. Approval of the May 9, 2016 Minutes (Directors)

- No corrections

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

b. Open Action Item Review (J. Olman)

- **Matt** – send out links that Dr. Foster provided. - DONE
- **Matt** – follow up for the Pennovation Tour – DONE
- **Hank** - Send out information for Matt to post - DONE

Open Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

c. Alumni Weekend Recap – 5/14 (S. Warchaizer)

- Really terrific
- Gave a record amount to President Gutmann, who appeared to be effusive again in her praise of SEAS
- A beautiful day, and all reports suggest that activities were quite enjoyed



Engineering Alumni Society

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

d. Pennovation Tour Recap – 5/24 (A. Schultz)

- Tour in may very successful
- 22 attendees divided evenly between EAS and SWE
- Everyone survived the rough terrain
- We toured Dean Kumar’s new lab; students gave robotics demonstrations
- We saw video of robots ascending and descending stairs, drones flying around
- Amazing what’s been accomplished
- Even though the building is still a work in progress, we should be able to have a more extensive tour during homecoming
- Seville: a great tour.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

VI. New Business:

a. New York Networking – 7/20 (J. Rifkin)

- We have the first event of the year this coming Wednesday
- Inviting grads from the past 15 years
- Heather and Craig are co-chairs
- Hope to use this event to spawn others
- The event is unstructured, but we’re trying to shift to more structured programs, based on feedback from attendees
- Seville: if anyone knows alumni living in the NYC area
- Jason and Gabrielle: might be possible to get surrounding areas, not just boroughs
- Rosette: would be worthwhile to get surrounding areas of NYC because older alumni have moved out of the city
- Venue is a double-decker bar; free for the bar area; room for >100 people
- Matt: want to make sure that too many people don’t show up
- Not looking for people to RSVP because of “fluid” schedules of recent alumni
- Had about 60-70 in the past



Engineering Alumni Society

- Bob: anyone from Long Island? There are lots of people out there. (Jason: people who live there weren't invited yet)

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

b. Graduate Student BBQ (H. Guckes)

- Puzzled because he didn't come up with the new dates
- New date is 9/6, in the Singh Center; get the entire building, inside and outside?
- Emails to grad students will continue, but how many PhDs do we get from each year? Ratio of PhDs to all grad students?
- Will get better attendance because of new arrangement
- Not 9/8, as calendar draft previously indicated
- How to get more grad students to attend?
- Thanks to Gabrielle for helping rearrange
- Gabrielle: changed dates due to renovations, but also to ensure that Masters students are around for the event
- Farnia: when does academic year actually begin for undergrads? (Aug. 30)
- Gabrielle: Should probably be okay because of location (and volunteers) for preventing undergrads to access
- Rosette: I'm happy to advertise to the Masters listserv shortly before the event.
- New setting should be helpful for excluding non-Penn people
- Rosette: We have about 1000 Masters students, so we might have a lot (or too many) students
- Russ: Do we want to still keep the "BBQ" name? Gabrielle: Food is the same, so we'll keep the name.
- Russ: Still going to do September in the future? Answer: We'll see how it goes this year and evaluate going forward.
- Russ: Are we bringing beer back? Gabrielle: Still not allowed.
- Gabrielle: We'll be taking RSVPs to get a sense of how many attendees we'll have and how much food to order.
- Seville: Send out an email in August to request volunteers, especially since we don't have a meeting before then.
- Bob: We should have a map/plan view to know where everything will be located.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Hank – Send out an email to Seville to get volunteers



Engineering Alumni Society

c. Review Proposed New Activities (S. Mannickarottu)

- Reminder: directors are obliged to attend 6 meetings and participate in at least one committee
- Seville: Recent alumni engagement with the board
 - Try to get more recent alumni involved with the board
 - Want to form committee to explore ideas
- Matt: Welcome to the freshman class
 - Staff a table during NSO to start making new students aware of our brand
 - Want to solve the problem that students don't really know that we're behind events, and then aren't aware of us when they graduate.
 - Set expectation for new students that they'll be part of alumni society
 - Already have contact information from Alumni office
 - Russ: Because NSO is for the whole school, how do we differentiate between SEAS and other students? Matt: We'll be able to advertise. Eric: The school might have events we could participate in too.
 - A chance for us to get started early.
 - Parth: Make sure to differentiate alumni society from Penn Engineering as a whole? Give items that remind them of conversation and information shared.
- Seville: Networking workshop panel
 - For Masters students, teach how to network
 - Rosette: We have these both for international students and in general for everyone
 - George: Lots of international students ask about this
 - Matt: Lots of students don't seem to know about Career Services
 - Rosette: Incoming Masters students are required to participate in workshops to participate in OCR. Very high participation rate
 - George: I hear from people "I want to get a job, but I'm not used to introducing myself to people"
 - Rosette: People want a job, not just to talk. We bring in employers, alumni to talk about how to network.
 - For freshmen, we're now talking about Generation Z
 - Matt: It'd be good to know when these events are happening in order to better refer people to Career Services.
 - Seville: Let's nix this one.
 - Heather: It'd be helpful to have a roleplay-type session. Rosette: We do that too.
- Tim: Safety and Engineering Panel
 - Similar to PE and IP presentations, to augment regular coursework with industry knowledge.
 - A lot of safety can be brought to the table during design, rather than on the tail end of projects.
 - Safety isn't generally covered within engineering education, but it's really important in industry.
 - Want to add a "Safety Through Design" panel presentation/discussion to



Engineering Alumni Society

- begin integrating safety into curriculum.
- Bob: Lots of companies have safety professionals, so the issue is awareness of the students, and we have to start early and in school.
- Parth: For different engineering disciplines, the safety standards are different. Can this event be successful without going into discipline-specific details?
Tim: Thanks for the feedback—I'd envision this presentation having a lot of different examples and case-studies to have real-life discussions about what went wrong.
- Hank: This would definitely be worthwhile to try. (Lots of agreement on this.)
- Bob: Make sure people know to take standards into account early on in the design process.
- Seville: Sounds like we're all for this, so we can form a committee.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

d. Review Current Activity List (S. Mannickarottu)

- List of committees from Seville's email:

1. Engaging Alumni

a. Alumni Society Awards

Goal: Selection of the Yarnall Award winner and communication of the other award winners to the board.

Responsibilities: Work with the development office to select a winner of the Yarnall award. Identify the winners of the other alumni awards and communicate it to the board.

b. EAS Website & Social Networking

Goal: Maintain the website and social networking sites.

Responsibilities: work with the SEAS web team to maintain the EAS website. Maintain and post to the social networking site. Verify those who wish to join the LinkedIn site are connected to Penn by using QuakerNet.

c. Homecoming / Alumni Weekend

Goal: Spread the word and encourage attendance at Homecoming and Alumni Weekend

Responsibilities: Work with development office to obtain the latest information regarding the event. Post on social media sites and encourage attendance.

d. Penn Club Philly & EAS

Goal: Strengthen ties in the Philadelphia area among both SEAS and other Penn alumni.

Responsibilities: Work with Penn Club Philadelphia to develop collaborative programs.

e. Regional Engineering Alumni - NYC

Goal: Strengthen ties in the NYC area among Alumni

Responsibilities: Previously arranged networking happy hours for young alumni

f. Regional Engineering Alumni - Philly

Goal: Strengthen ties in the Philadelphia area among Alumni



Engineering Alumni Society

Responsibilities: Previously, arranged a networking happy hour for young alumni

g. Regional Engineering Alumni - Philly SWE

Goal: Strengthen ties with the Philadelphia SWE chapter

Responsibilities: Previously, invited Philly SWE chapter to the “Back to Penn Engineering” event to tour the Pennovation Center.

2. Engaging the Board

a. Back to Penn Engineering

Goal: Arrange tours and class visits for Board members. Previous events included a tour of the Pennovation Center and attendance of a Introduction to Electrical Engineering class.

b. Nominations

Goal: Nominate Board members.

c. Speaker Series

Goal: Target 2-3 speakers to present to the Board following board meetings.

Responsibilities: Identify and invite speakers. Speakers are generally Engineering faculty, or faculty doing work which may be of interest to the Board (previous speakers included an archeologist discussing use of technology in his work; and environmental scientist)

3. Engaging Students

a. Graduate BBQ

Goal: BBQ during the summer for graduate students.

Responsibilities: Work with the Development Office to arrange the program. Attend the event and help (along with other volunteers) to sign-in and welcome guests. Note: Committee chair must be able to have 11-3 pm available on a weekday.

b. Mentoring/Externship

Goal: Mentoring and Externship programs for students

Responsibilities: Work with Career Services to run the programs.

c. Patent Presentation (Next year: PE Presentation)

Goal: Hold a presentation of patent attorneys and related people to discuss the process of obtaining a patent.

Responsibilities: Work with Career Services & Development office. Identify speakers. Some of the speakers can come from Penn’s Center for Innovation.

d. Senior Design Competition

Goal: Provide judging for the senior design competition.

Responsibilities: Review judging criteria; arrange scoring methods; facilitate the event; present/coordinate award distribution; Invited students from area high schools.

e. Student Engagement - AWE & SWE

Goal: Strengthen ties with the Advancing Women in Engineering program & SWE at Penn.

Responsibilities: Connect with and work with the AWE staff person to develop joint programs with the board and AWE. Previous event included a “Tassel and Toast” event with graduating women and board members.

f. Student Engagement - ESAC

Goal: Strengthen ties in the undergraduate Engineering community.



Engineering Alumni Society

Responsibilities: Reach out the ESAC to let them know the EAS board is around and willing to work with groups interested in developing joint programs. Present any interest to the board. Committee chair will be the primary contact for student groups interested in engaging with alumni.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

e. Fill Committee Chair and Member Roles (S. Mannickarottu)

Engaging Alumni

- Alumni Society Awards
 - Chair: Jim
 - Committee: Carl, Marion, Ramsey, Craig
- EAS Website & Social Networking
 - Chair: Russ
 - Committee: Hank
- Homecoming / Alumni Weekend
 - Chair: Carl
 - Committee:
- Penn Club Philly & EAS
 - Chair: Farnia
 - Committee: Parth, Bernard
- Regional Engineering Alumni – NYC
 - Chair: Jason
 - Committee: Heather
- Regional Engineering Alumni – Philly
 - Chair: Bernard
 - Committee: Parth, Lyle, Leah
- Regional Engineering Alumni – Philly SWE
 - Chair: Dawn
 - Committee: None

Engaging the board

- Back to Penn Engineering
 - Chair: Alan
 - Committee: Bob
- Nominations
 - Chair: Matt Quale
 - Committee: Farnia Fresnel, Eric Benshetler, Tim Carlsen
- Speaker Series
 - Chair: Bob
 - Committee: Yijie



Engineering Alumni Society

Engaging Students

- Graduate Student BBQ
 - Chair: Hank
 - Committee: None
- Mentoring/Externship
 - Chair: Paul
 - Committee:
- Patent Presentation (Next year: PE Presentation)
 - Chair: Jonathan
 - Committee: Tim, Harry
- Senior Design Competition
 - Chair: Jay
 - Committee: Walt, Hank, Eric, Jim, Lyle
- Student Engagement – AWE & SWE
 - Chair: Dawn
 - Committee: None
- Student Engagement – ESAC
 - Chair: Russ
 - Committee: None

Other

- Welcome to the Freshman Class
 - Chair: Matt
 - Committee: Heather, Leah, Carl
- Recent Alumni Engagement with Board
 - Chair: TBD
 - Committee: Jason, Jay
- Safety & Engineering Panel
 - Chair: Tim
 - Committee: Bob, Bernard

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

VII. Around the Table (All)

- Seville: for reference, my name is pronounced “money-cur-ROTE”
- Russ: Needs alumni society report from May, photos from alumni weekend, verification of Senior Design video review; review WeChat
- Matt: Excellent first meeting to Seville



Engineering Alumni Society

- Jim: Congrats to Stan for all his years of service
- Jay: let me know if you have any good product management contacts locally
- Alan: Congrats to Seville on a good first meeting, and good luck to Stan and Gabrielle; Walt is in the hospital and may be discharged tomorrow
- Parth: I'm a recent graduate working in a lab on campus
- Ramsey: Recent PhD alum currently at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, but hopes to be at as many board meetings as possible.
- George: I appreciate everyone giving their time to help out
- Rosette: I appreciate your dedication to helping out. Thanks Matt, and great first meeting Seville.
- Yijie: Telecom masters alum from 2006, at her first meeting having learned about EAS at alumni weekend.
- Hank: Please remember to note whether you can volunteer for the grad student BBQ event.
- Farnia: Great meeting Seville, and it's really promising to hear all the new voices in the room and on the phone. Congratulations Gabrielle! Also, I'm on the host committee for "Our Penn" which is taking place on September 14. This is the university's interactive program that involves the president discussing what's going on now and moving forward.
- Seville: I emailed the calendar, but it's also available as a Google calendar. Please update your contact information.

New Action Items:

- ACTION: Matt** – Send Alumni Society report from May
- Walt** – Review videos from Senior Design

VIII. Adjourn (S. Mannickarottu)

- Adjourned at 7:40 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2016 from 6:00-7:00pm in Room 307 Levine Hall.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Jay Olman