



Engineering Alumni Society

Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA 19104

www.seas.upenn.edu/alumni/

Monday, January 23, 2017 6pm, Room 307 Levine

Attendees:

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

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 6:03 pm.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

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

- Reminder that we'll be gathering for drinks/snacks after the meeting at White Dog

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

III. Development Office Report (G. Hain)

- Brad reporting instead of George
- George and Dean Kumar on international trip to Europe and Asia
- Fundraising on target
- Board Appreciation Night
 - Proposed Sunday brunch and an afternoon basketball game because there aren't any available Saturday evening games left
 - February 12, with brunch starting at 11am
 - Bring family and have fun

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

IV. Career Services Report (R. Pyne)

- Really busy with appointments and walk-ins
- Startup career fair coming up in February
- Ivy+ career fair coming up at Columbia
 - Our 15th or 16th year participating
- There's a spring career fair too (not just for engineers)
- Currently working on summer survey results
- Paul can report on externship program, but it went well again this year
- We'll have record numbers of students showing up for mentoring info session
- Reserved a room for the patent presentation



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- Bernard: My company is currently understaffed. Is there a way I can reach out to a list of recent engineering graduates?
 - Rosette: If you send a description, I'll send it out to the list.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

V. Old Business:

a. Approval of the November 14, 2016 Minutes (Directors)

- Hank and Eric were present at the November meeting

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Jay – Update attendance

b. Open Action Item Review (J. Olman)

- Homecoming videos sent

Open Action Items:

ACTION:

c. EAS Website/Social Networking – (R. Miller)

- Russ not available for meeting
- LinkedIn group up to 3901 members

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

VI. New Business:

a. Alumni Society Awards (J. Brennan)

- Discussing changing one of the judging criteria for the Yarnall Award
 - In the past, there was a requirement that the recipient “must have offered a



Engineering Alumni Society

significant contribution to engineering,” but people go into various fields that aren’t traditionally engineering

- Proposed change to “...to engineering or other endeavors”
- Jay: What would happen if we were *not* to make the change?
 - Jim: We want to award other people who don’t quite fit within the criteria, and we don’t want to break the rules
 - Matt: We’ve done this sort of thing in the past, and we don’t want to violate rules going forward
 - Jim: The recipient still has to be an engineering alum, of course
 - Eric: Rule change sounds good

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Russ – Update title of Yarnall Award page with correct spelling

b. Patent Presentation (J. Lombardo)

- Room scheduled: March 22 in Wu and Chen Auditorium at 6:15pm
- Currently we have:
 - Patent counsel from Comcast (basics of patent law)
 - Harry Vartanian (presentation about how the new administration might treat patents)
- Now that we have a room scheduled, we’ll send a formal invite to Dr. Beatrice from Pennovation
- We’ll also invite a past participant from Johnson & Johnson
- Next steps are to finalize the agenda and work on advertising
- Seville: Sounds really good. Thanks to you and your committee for organizing this. I look forward to talking more about details next month.
- Dayo: Is there a guest list to attend? Do people need to register?
 - We’ve never been at risk of filling the room (just running out of pizza)

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

c. Student Engagement (D. Becket)

- AWE:
 - Michaile Rainey is excited to participate in the third Tassel and Toast event
 - This is a mixer event that EAS has been part of planning in the past
 - Introduce alumni to a group of graduating seniors
 - It’s nice this has turned into an annual tradition
 - Proposed date: Monday, April 24 in the Singh Center Glandt Forum



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- It would be great to have board and alumni presence there like we've had in the past
- Seville: In the past, how many students have we had?
 - Awe tends to get 40-50 students per event
 - I'm remembering us having 5-8 board members
 - Having more alumni would be great
 - It's important to make sure these new graduates know how to stay connected after graduating
- Seville: Definitely a fun event—I've enjoyed it.
- Someone who was at one of our past board meetings found out about it from this event. Definitely a good way to reach out to recent grads
- Regional Alumni Mixer:
 - Potential alumni mixer more broad than just Penn alumni
 - Corporate SWE Philly group has shown interest in a mixer (we did the Pennovation tour with them)
 - Center City cash bar works well for them; open to collaboration
 - Seville: Sounds like a great idea
 - Bernard: Happy to help plan and facilitate. Want to make sure we have the best way to get the message out. People at the past event found out through other participants
 - Dawn: It'd be great for you to handle location stuff since you've hosted a successful mixer in the past
 - Jay: Sounds like a good opportunity to talk with people who might be interested in joining our group and increasing participation
 - Make sure to get the event out on Facebook and LinkedIn

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

d. Prevention Through Design Presentation (T. Carlsen)

- Proposed and approved during summer meeting
- Intends to supplement students' knowledge about subjects they don't typically hear about through their classwork
- This topic is starting to gain momentum through architecture and legal fields
- Instead of looking at end design safety, look at safety of everyone who touches the building through its construction.
- One of the top priorities of NIOSH; starting to be noticed by OSHA, bar association
- Activity currently by Bucknell and the University of Oregon
- Also starting to be noticed by regulatory organizations
- Program will be an hour
 - Touches on familiarizing students with "prevention through design" buzzword



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- Will be important for students to know about moving forward with their careers
- Likely just after spring break; still finalizing dates (ideally the week before the patent presentation)
- Should be an area of great interest for both engineers and architects; suspect there will soon be regulations and standards around this
- I do believe it'll be compelling and useful and informative
- Seville: Might be good to reach out to engineering faculty, who might want to incorporate it into their curricula and classrooms
- Bob: Lots of professional societies have interest and information in these sorts of issues
- Tim: I learned a lot about safety in specific designs, but not a whole lot about safety with regard to how your product is built. I suspect that it's really nascent at this point and that very few people are addressing this in the classroom.
- Dayo: Professor Michelle Johnson (BE) may be interested and would be a good person to talk to

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

VII. Around the Table (All)

- Bob: We'll have to talk about another speaker or a meeting this spring. I'll throw out some ideas and we'll discuss possibilities.
- Dave: Can you give out the meeting minutes at an earlier date? I have to arrange travel in order to come into town for a lot of the things mentioned.
- Brad: I want to let everyone know there's a date for the Senior Design Competition: Friday, April 28. Please mark your calendars!
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New Action Items:

ACTION: Seville – Send out meeting minutes earlier

VIII. Adjourn (S. Mannickarottu)

- Adjourned at 7:06 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2017 from 6:00-7:00pm in Room 307 Levine Hall.



Engineering Alumni Society

Minutes prepared and submitted by Jay Olman