



Engineering Alumni Society

Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA 19104

www.seas.upenn.edu/alumni/

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

Attendees:

Dean Vijay Kumar	X	Robert Berkovits – D	X	Oladayo Adewole – AL	
Sevile Mannickarottu – Pres	X	Lyle Brunhofer – D	X	Sarah Badin – AL	
Dawn Becket – VP	X	Hank Guckes – D		Andrew Botelbo – AL	
Jim Brennan – VP	X	Lauren Hedvat – D		Alison Capone – AL	
Paul McLaughlin – VP	X	Yijie Hu – D		Parth Chopra – AL	
Jay Olman – Sec	X	Bernard Jones – D	X	David Goldstein – AL	
Carl Clyde – Tres		Jonathan Lombardo – D	T	Nimay Kulkarni – AL	
		Ramsey Kraya – D	T	Ramsey Kraya – AL	
Brad Abrams – PP		Jason Rifkin – D	T	Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos – AL	
Eric Benshetler – PP		Craig Schorr – D	T	Matthew Serota – AL	
Tim Carlsen – PP		Alan Schultz – D	X	Jane Fried Sheinfeld – AL	
Farnia Fresnel – PP	T	Heather Stern – D		David Solomon – AL	
Marion Hubing – PP	T			Aditya Sreekumar – AL	
Walter Korn – PP		Ernest Churchville – AD	T	Jeremy Wang – AL	
Dick Mulford – PP		William McGill – AD		Stan Warchaizer – AL	
Matt Quale – PP	X	Russ Miller – AD			
Harris Romanoff – PP		Jeffrey Ng – AD	T	George Hain – F/S	X
		Leah Suttner – AD		Rosette Pyne – F/S	
				Brad Richards – F/S	X
				Eddie Hammond – UG	X
T: Teleconference					
X: In-Person					

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



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I. Call to Order (S. Mannickarottu)

- Called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

II. Dean's Remarks (V. Kumar)

- Thank you Seville, I'm glad to be here. I appreciate you including me in the agenda.
- A bit about what's happening at Penn Engineering:
 - We're beginning the fall semester and are expecting a banner year in admissions. The class size and quality exceeded expectations
 - Now getting over 10,000 apps for 400 slots
 - I sound like a broken record every year on this, but it's true!
 - Largest class of women engineers this year
 - Penn as a whole is getting competitive, but Engineering even more so.
 - 13% of the class of 2018 have jobs already
 - From the faculty standpoint, we're in the midst of the biggest expansion in Penn Engineering history.
 - Already up to 131 tenure track faculty, on the way to 150; halfway to expansion goal
 - Close to 165 total faculty now
 - Need this to account for growing technology and research
 - More students taking engineering courses, including lots of second majors from the College and Wharton
 - Today you can get a B.A. from the College and a second major in computer science (also a B.A.)
 - Many students from the College recognize the need to specialize in engineering and end up doing a Master's degree
 - In two years, the thirst for engineering has grown, which has been an unexpected challenge
 - Faculty search is very competitive and we spend a lot of time trying to fundraise for scholarly chairs. We're already well on our way toward our goal for 2020.
 - One of the things we're doing is taking the alumni show on the road
 - Earlier this month, we had an event in Boston to which 60 or 70 alumni came out
 - Also planning to do New York City and California events
 - Engineering alumni enthusiasm is not just here, but all over the world
 - Thanks to the board for the very important role you play.
 - You're the students' connection to the real world, serving as judges and



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- coming to events.
- The Penn Engineering brand name is appreciating, but the brand is really the alumni body.
- Marion: I saw the dean on television talking about drones on PBS
 - Dean Kumar: That was an older version of myself!
- George: Before you go, can you talk about the three big grants we've gotten?
 - Dean Kumar: Sure. One (for bioengineering) is about concussion science, which is in the news lately. Another is a SAS/SEAS joint grant that studies the structure of matter. This is an existing grant that's been renewed for another 5 year period. The third is for distributed collaborative intelligence, looking at connectivity through the internet of things. Can devices collaborate?
 - The other thing I should mention is that we've just raised the biggest gift in Penn history in financial aid, primarily targeting first-generation American students, and with a focus on research and global service learning.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

III. President's Welcome & Remarks (S. Mannickarottu)

- First off, I attended the Penn Club of Philadelphia open house (Farnia was there as well).
 - There was a good showing with a lot of people present. I was able to talk to a bunch about what we do and our organization.
 - There were 5-10 engineers there who expressed interest
- The new website is now official!
 - The old site will now redirect.
 - I encourage everyone to take a look and give feedback
- Penn Engineering switched over email forwarding and alumni email addresses to Gmail. Mine is now fixed. If anyone else has been using email forwarding, please update it.
- Congratulations to Jay!
- We have a returning guest, Eddie Hammond:
 - Eddie: I'm from the SEAS Council. You all interacted with us last semester and EAS was really helpful.
 - This month, we're trying to engage more with Career Services and EAS.
 - Trying to do larger collaborative events with larger audiences
 - Trying to make sure groups putting on events can get the right support from Career Services and EAS
 - Hoping to get alumni to come help out

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:



ACTION: Owner – None

IV. Development Office Report (G. Hain)

- Dean Kumar generally covered everything, but I’ll add more.
- Because of the large gift, we had our second best year ever.
- Also closed some gifts for endowed chairs. We’re going to be transitioning from those into facilities.
 - We want to build some new labs (not sure where yet or what yet, but we’re growing)
 - Need to determine lab types
 - All part of a university campaign that will be announced in April
- Annual giving continues to do unbelievably well.
 - We’re in probably the 20th year of growth
 - Starting to do calls
 - Last time, we used an outside firm that had people from Iowa
 - Now, we’ve come in-house and are using Penn students
 - We’re off to a great start this year
- Janhavi Chandra is our new Director of Annual Giving (this is the position that Gabrielle held). She did annual giving at PennDesign previously.
 - We’re now up to 9 people in the development office.
 - All positions are filled and should stay that way for a while.
- Brad: Visits around the country are a new effort to go to different areas with Dean Kumar to give a “state of the school” update.
 - Boston was first
 - The New York event takes place on Thursday, 11/2
 - Out in the Bay Area in early December
 - The first event was a big success, and we hope to have a few more.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

V. Career Services Report (R. Pyne)

- Rosette isn’t here today.

VI. Old Business:

a. Approval of the September 11, 2017 Minutes (Directors)

- Thanks to Bernard for filling in.
- Seville: Add Matt to attendance

Open Action Items:



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New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

b. Open Action Item Review (J. Olman)

- Include electric car in newsletter - **DONE**
- Add bylaws to the website - **PENDING**
- Enable tent as a signup option for Homecoming - **DONE**

Open Action Items:

ACTION: Jeff, Seville – Add bylaws to website

c. Back to Penn Engineering – 10/23 (A. Schultz)

- Thanks to George for suggesting Penn Electric Racing for the presentation
- We met downstairs in the lab with students first
 - Got a thorough tour of the car in detail, including design, testing, and operation, all by students
 - They're all volunteering and not getting academic credit for this.
 - Penn's car has already won first place against schools like MIT and Carnegie Mellon, who have much more experience building racing cars than Penn does.
 - The students did a great job answering both technical and non-technical questions.
- Then went to meeting room to see an audio/visual presentation to see the car in action.
- The program was very educational and entertaining. Thank you all for coming!
- Seville: Thank you again, Alan. This was a great event, and thank you all for coming for the basement and whole presentation. We were able to have more people than we could for ESE 111 in the past.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

VII. New Business:

a. Regional Engineering Alumni – NYC – 10/24 (J. Rifkin)

- An invite for a happy hour was sent to the last 10 years of alumni living within 25 miles of Manhattan.
- The event is tomorrow. 40 people say they're coming
- Perhaps in the future we'd broaden the invitation base and put together a more formal agenda.



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Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

b. Homecoming (J. Brennan)

- Homecoming is coming up soon.
- There will be culturally rich programming, but we'll have the traditional gathering as well.
- Come to as much as you want/can!
- Brad has tickets available for the football game.
- Seville: tell everyone to come. The events are free! Bioengineering has an alumni reception that evening as well.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

c. Regional Engineering Alumni – Philly – 11/16 (J. Lombardo)

- We're looking at doing something November 14th (not the 16th)
- Still deciding on a venue, but looking to confirm availability for Strangelove's again.
- Bernard: I emailed them today. Did you email as well?
 - Jon: I did, but haven't heard back yet.
- Dawn: As soon as details are confirmed, I'll relay to SWE. Their new committee likes to have as much lead time as possible for these types of events.
- Jay: Who's invited from the Penn side of things?
 - Using the same list from before, plus the past 10 years of local alumni

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

d. Speaker Series (R. Berkovits)

- We're trying to get professor Danielle Bassett to come on November 27th.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:



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ACTION: Owner – None

e. Alumni Society Awards (J. Brennan)

- We were originally going to present a proposal today, but we were late getting bios.
- Planning on committee meeting this week or next.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

VIII. Around the Table (All)

- Ernest: I'm happy to announce I'm starting a new teaching position!
- Brad: Please come to homecoming!
- Jay: Thanks again to Bernard for keeping the minutes last meeting.
- Seville: If you really want to know social network numbers, check them out when you go on and post something!

New Action Items:

IX. Adjourn (S. Mannickarottu)

- Adjourned at 6:59 pm.

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

Minutes prepared and submitted by Jay Olman