



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 20, 2015 6pm, Room 307 Levine

Attendees:

Dean Vijay Kumar		Dawn Becket – D	X	Lyle Brunhofer – AL	
Matt Quale – Pres	X	Robert Berkovits – D	X	Alison Capone – AL	
Russ Miller – VP	T	Jim Brennan – D	X	Ashish Chauhan – AL	
Alan Schultz – VP	X	Ernest Churchville – D	T	Jane Fried Sheinfeld – AL	
Stan Warchaizer – VP	X	Carl Clyde – D		David Goldstein – AL	
Sevile Mannickarottu – Sec	X	Hank Guckes – D	X	Bernard A. Jones Jr. – AL	X
Jason Rifkin – Tres	T	William McGill – D		Wayne Robbins – AL	
		Paul McLaughlin – D	X	Wendy Sardinsky – AL	
Brad Abrams – PP		Jay Olman – D	X	Matthew Serota – AL	T
Eric Benshetler – PP	X	Craig Schorr – D	X	Nishal N. Shah – AL	
Tim Carlsen – PP	X	Heather Stern – D	X	David Solomon – AL	
Farnia Fresnel – PP	T				
Marion Hubing – PP	X	Dane Carswell – AD		Ellie Davis – F/S	
Walter Korn – PP	X	Bill Kane – AD		Gabrielle Gary – F/S	X
Dick Mulford – PP		Nikos Lioutas – AD		George Hain – F/S	
Harris Romanoff – PP		Harry Vartanian – AD		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



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I. Call to Order (M. Quale)

- Called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

II. President's Welcome and Remarks (M. Quale)

- Enjoy the food! We have wraps and Insomnia cookies.
- Thank you for joining this summer!
- We will be back in September.
- The next Alumni only Coursera event will be “Revolutionary Ideas.” It will run from October 1-30. It will be limited to 500 Alumni.
 - Marion – How does it work?
 - Matt – You can watch videos and work on projects in your own time.
 - Matt – For the previous course, the Alumni office was trying to organize events for people in various regions to come together to discuss a topic.
 - There's a syllabus available online with the details.
- Welcomed Craig Schorr and Heather Stern who are attending the meeting in person for the first time.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

III. Development Office Report (G. Hain)

- Gabrielle spoke on behalf of George, who is in California.
- Thank you all for everything that you have been doing!
- Another record breaking year in donations! Thank you for contributing!

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None



IV. Career Services Report (R. Pyne)

- Note: Rosette gave this information during the “around the table” discussion.
- Two weeks ago went to Google in NYC.
 - They took over the old Port Authority building.
 - Adding another 2000 people to that facility.
 - There will be more opportunities for our students.
- Also visited the FBI offices in NYC.
 - They are hiring engineers and language experts.
 - If anyone knows any other languages and is interested they should let her know
- Also visited NBC in NY, who is also hiring.
- The Engineering Career fair is coming up on September 10th.
 - SpaceX, NASA, and Amazon Robotics are some of the companies that will be coming to the career fair.
 - Please put out the feelers to your company, especially engineering companies.
 - 1597 students attended last year.
 - Craig: I could reach out to the NSA.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

V. Old Business:

a. Approval of the May 11, 2015 Minutes (Directors)

- Eric had a correction about the S. Reid Warren, Jr. Award in the Alumni Society Awards section.
- Approved with corrections.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

b. Open Action Item Review (S. Mannickarottu)

- None.

Open Action Items:



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ACTION:

c. Alumni Weekend Recap (S. Warchaizer)

- There was a great crowd.
- President Gutmann was very enthusiastic and full of praise toward Dean Eduardo Glandt.
- The new Dean was also there.
- The weather was gorgeous!
- The food was very good.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

VI. New Business:

a. Graduate Student BBQ (H. Guckes)

- Hank passed out a volunteer sheet.
- There will not be beer, just as last year.
- It will be on July 30th from 12-2 pm.
- Since the food will not be grilled on site, there will not be a rain date. If it rains, the event will be moved to Levine.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

b. Regional Alumni Events – NYC (J. Rifkin)

- We have an event coming together.
- Will reach out soon to determine a date.
- Matt: The sooner you get emails, the better. Reach out to Gabrielle.
- Seville: What range of Alumni are you targeting?
 - Jason: Recent grads from the last 5-10 years and current seniors.
- Farnia: Did an email go out to graduating seniors?
 - Matt: Not yet.
 - Farnia: Good opportunity to advertise the event.



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- Matt: Jason, please determine the date soon so it can be included in the letter.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

c. Review Proposed New Activities (M. Quale)

- Seville proposed a new idea:
 - I was recently approached by a recruiting firm in the Philadelphia area interested in meeting alumni in the Philadelphia area.
 - Specifically, they would host career development and/or networking type events in collaboration with the Alumni Society. They would identify the venue and provide food/drinks.
 - This could be a great benefit for alumni in the area.
 - The event would be just for Penn Alumni.
 - Matt: We would not provide contact lists.
 - Stan suggested that some recruiting firms can be quite pushy.
 - Rosette strongly discouraged working with recruiting firms.
 - Tim: Does Career services have networking events for Alumni?
 - Rosette: No, however, career service has collaborated with the Alumni office for an event in NYC.
 - Jay: Can we hold an event similar to the event we run in NYC instead?
 - Matt: Yes. The Alumni office might be able to provide a list.
 - Rosette: Alumni Relations does do career related webinars.
 - Tim: Are there lots of Alumni looking or coming to Career Services?
 - Rosette: In 2008 there were a lot in connection with the economic collapse; Not so many now.
 - Marion: If companies are interested in positions, can they reach out to you, Rosette?
 - Rosette: yes!
 - Matt: Should we form such a committee to hold a networking event?
 - Tim: What is the goal for such an event?
 - Matt: Attended the AIChE event. Somewhat informal. Perhaps we could hold something like that?
 - Craig & Jay: Sounds like the NY event. Probably good to be tied to a theme, or industry.
 - Matt: Perhaps another opportunity for working with the Penn Alumni club of Philadelphia?
 - Rosette: You can have an event and invite someone from career services to attend.
 - Heather: One difference between Philadelphia and NYC, is that Philly already has events. So perhaps focused, theme based events would be good.



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- Tim: Good point - There are already lots of Alumni events.
- Rosette: Another option is to have breakout sessions during homecoming weekend and alumni weekend.
- Matt: It sounds like a committee should be formed to discuss the details.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

d. Review Current Activity List (M. Quale)

- Nominations committee will continue to be led by Farnia, as per the by-laws.
- Alumni society awards will continue.
- Jay – For the Student Engagement Committees, having one for all departments was too much for the one committee; on the other hand, having a committee for each department might be an overkill.
 - Tim: Perhaps invite student leaders to the meetings. We could have them speak in the beginning.
 - Jay: It would be great if there was someone on the student side.
 - Tim: Perhaps mandate a schedule for the student groups to attend. If they are interested, they attend, if not, that's okay.
 - Matt: As events come in, we could then create a committee.
 - Tim: Perhaps have a meeting just for student groups to talk.
 - Rosette: The follow up to reaching out to ESAC could be that the group can attend the board meeting.
 - Matt: Had reached out the AIChE, but nothing came out of it.
 - Jay: MEAM had a panel discussion.
 - Tim: Good just for students to see a bunch of alumni around the table. Right now our big student involvement is with seniors. Perhaps inviting the student leaders to the meeting would get them involved with the group.
 - Tim: Perhaps invite them through a google doc for a meeting; first come first serve for the date.
 - Matt: I think for this year it would be good to schedule it for them.
 - Rosette: Make them feel like it is something they cannot miss out on.
 - Gabrielle: Alumni relations says that you only need two years to establish a tradition. We just need to call it 'annual'.
 - Matt: Which student groups should we include in this?
 - Tim: Is there a list of active groups?
 - Heather: Whom do you talk to for each group? Jay: Reach out to the leader of each group.
 - Matt: My gut is that we reach out to EDAB and ESAC and then see what groups want to follow up.



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- Tim: Sounds like a committee and chair is needed.
- Matt: Very well, we'll roll it back into an umbrella committee. The intent of the committee is to ultimately distribute the work to other to-be-formed committees. We should have the student engagement committee handle all student groups except AWE/SWE.
- Hank: Should we have a committee for the website and LinkedIn, or just a chair?
 - Russ: it would be good to have someone take over next year.
 - Hank: I will help to take over.
- Alan has been chairing the "Back to Penn Engineering" committee. Alan: Will work with Professor Lee and continue with ESE 111. It is scheduled for November 16th. A committee would be helpful.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

e. Fill Committee Chair and Member Roles (M. Quale)

- Nominations Committee
 - Chair: Farnia Fresnel
 - Committee: Brad Abrams, Eric Benshetler, Tim Carlsen, Walter Korn
- Alumni Society Awards
 - Chair: Will McGill
 - Committee: Jim Brennan, Tim Carlsen, Farnia Fresnel, Marion Hubing, Paul McLaughlin
- Regional Engineering Alumni – NYC
 - Chair: Jason Rifkin
 - Committee: Craig Schorr, Heather Stern
- Senior Design Competition
 - Chair: Walter Korn
 - Committee: Jim Brennan, Ernest Churchville, Jay Olman, Stan Warchaizer
- EAS Website / Social Networking
 - Chair: Russ Miller
 - Committee: Hank Guckes
- Back to Penn Engineering
 - Chair: Alan Schultz
 - Committee: Robert Berkovits
- Homecoming / Alumni Weekend
 - Chair: Stan Warchaizer
- Speaker Series
 - Chair: Robert Berkovits



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- Committee: Craig Schorr
- Penn Club Philly / EAS
 - Chair: Eric Benshetler
 - Committee: Bernard Jones
- Student Engagement – Graduate BBQ
 - Chair: Hank Guckes
- Student Engagement – Mentoring/Externship
 - Chair: Paul McLaughlin
- Student Engagement – PE Presentation
 - Chair: Tim Carlsen
- Student Engagement – AWE/SWE
 - Chair: Dawn Becket
- Student Engagement – ESAC
 - Chair: Seville Mannickarottu
 - Committee: Dawn Becket, Farnia Fresnel, Jay Olman
- New Philadelphia Alumni Networking Event
 - Chair: TBD

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

VII. Around the Table (All)

- Ernest: Picked up a full time position as an instructor in Engineering Technology in addition to his current teaching position at Weidner.
- Russ: Have we reviewed the calendar?
 - Matt: Alan gave feedback about the calendar.
 - Gabrielle: The board appreciation dinner is tentatively on February 6th. It is tentative.
 - Marion: Is the senior design competition on April 29th? Gabrielle: Yes.
 - Russ: I will put the calendar up.
 - Does anyone have pictures from Alumni Weekend? Matt: Eric might have some. Gabrielle will have the official ones.
 - Requested people take pictures at Grad student BBQ.
- Alan: Walter Korn had a special birthday recently. Happy Birthday!
- Bob: 11th annual Wharton aerospace conference is coming up. They will have some good breakout sessions. There is a Women in Systems Engineering conference coming up with a keynote speaker who has a PhD in metallurgy. Will keep Dawn



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- informed. Will also reach out to Irina Marinov's husband, who might be interested in being an upcoming speaker.
- Craig: During a Wharton Business event for high school students, his company had them for the day. He was on a panel where two of those present were former M&T students.
 - Matt: The SAAST Nanotech group had a site visit at Dow Chemical last week. About 30 students were there. There were a lot of hands-on events and the students were excited. It was a great opportunity.

New Action Items:

ACTION:

VIII. Adjournment (M. Quale)

- Adjourned at 7:52 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2015 at 6:00pm in Room 307 Levine Hall (Location to be confirmed).

Minutes prepared and submitted by Seville Mannickarottu.