



Engineering Alumni Society

Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors
 University of Pennsylvania
 Philadelphia, PA 19104
www.seas.upenn.edu/alumni/

Monday, February 22, 2010 6pm, in Room 307, Levine Hall
 Conference Bridge: 866-731-0899

Attendees:

Dean Eduardo Glandt	x	Ellie Davis		Jason Bethala - AD	
Harris Romanoff – Pres	x	George Hain	x	Alison Capponi - AD	
Jim Brennan – VP	T	Rosette Pyne		Jeannine Carr – AD	
Nancy Harris – VP	x	Janice Rafferty	x	Richard Cisek – AD	T
Russ Miller – VP		Robert Berkovits - D	x	Bill Kane – AD	
Farnia Fresnel – Sec	x	Dane Carswell – D		Sevile Mannickarottu – AD	x
Stan Warchaizer - Treas	x	Ernest Churchville - D	x	Wayne Robbins – AD	
Tim Carlsen - PP	x	Carl Clyde – D	x	Craig Schorr – AD	T
Dick Mulford - PP		Henry (Hank) Guckes - D	x	Jane Fried Sheinfeld - AD	
Marion Hubing – PP		Matt Quale – D	x	Jason Rifkin	T
Eric Benshetler – PP	x	Eileen McCarthy Feldman -D		David Goldstein	
Walter Korn – PP	x	Jocelyn Nelson – D	x	Dane Carswell	
Brad Abrams - PP	x	Alan Schultz –D	x	David Solomon	
T = indicates teleconference		Harry Vartanian –D	x		

President’s Welcome and Remarks

Harris opened the meeting at 6:02.

Dean's Remarks

- The Dean remarked that additional emphasis must be placed on fundraising. He travelled to Rome, Italy to meet with an alumnus (Metallurgic Company) who will return to the university to present a lecture.
- The Dean and the Dean of arts and sciences presented the building project to the executive committee (Trustees).
- 3 new faculty members have been recruited.
- Andy Jackson, PE will be a professor of practice and lead the PENNergy program at SEAS. He is coming to the University from ExxonMobil.
- PENN is one of a small group of universities that are ‘hiring’ this year. This puts the university in an advantageous position.
- The Dean and George will travel around the country and to Asia (including KL) to meet with admitted students and their parents as well as Alumni.
- Penn is experiencing a 32% increase in applications.
- Bioengineering continues to have the highest number of applicants. The EE department has a reduced number of applicants.



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Yarnall Award Update

The Dean noted that the Senior Awards will be in the Hall of Flags at Houston Hall. The most notable awards will be presented prior to the mass student awards. It will be fashioned after the University convocation and the University will ensure that it remains an upscale event. The University will engage this format as a one year experiment and will later assess the effectiveness and response to the format change.

ACTION: Janice will ask for an estimate to compare the number of chairs that can fit in the Hall of Flags vs. the hotel. Janice will investigate if they can procure nicer chairs for the event.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved with two corrections (telephone number for the dial in was incorrect as well as a correction in the speaker series section: Hoops vs Hoots).

Development Office Report

- George noted that they raised \$7MM towards the goal of \$10MM. While it is on target, it is below the comparable timeframe from 2009.
- Met with the central staff of the university to ask for help with the fundraising for 2010.
- Global fundraising efforts have been very lucrative for the university.
- National Institute for Standards and Technology turned the university down for \$14MM.

Career Services Report

- Rosette was not able to make it to the meeting.

Mentoring Program

- Nancy held the kickoff for the Mentoring program immediately before the board meeting
- 60 Freshmen enrolled in the program and ~40 were in attendance at the kickoff.
- 109 mentors are currently enrolled in the program. Many of them are new.

Alumni Career Panel

Farnia shared that both the panelists and the students were excited to participate in the Alumni Career panel.

- There were 12 panelists over two days.
- Approximately 50 students attended each panel.

Lessons Learned:

- Ensure that there are two tables for the panelists
- Provide name badges for panelists during the pre-panel networking
- Continue to align the career panels with National Engineering week.



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Biotech Career Panel

Jason organized the biotech panel and there was a very positive response.

- The plan is to revamp the panel and hold one in the fall as well.
- There was great diversity of experience represented across biotech. A professor of bioengineering was in attendance.

Both Farnia & Jason thanked Rosette, Janice and Career Services for the support during all of the career panels.

Website Report

- Russ was not able to attend the meeting.

Social Networking Report

- Rich 'Tweeted' for two days in support of Career Services. The next step is going to be a 'blog' session setup for students to ask him questions.
- The 'Alumni' tweeting is groundbreaking and several international universities are excited about beginning the same program.

Speaker Series

- Ernest informed the board that Anne Papageorge will speak to the board on the eastward expansion of the Penn campus.

Senior Design

- Walt indicated that nothing has changed about the senior design competition (format, reception, awards, etc.).
- The competition will be held on April 30th.
- The criteria for the awards will remain the same.
- Sid Dahliwala will arrange the Senior Design videos again this year. They would like to get the unedited videos to the students in a few days. The 1-2 best videos will be posted on the SEAS website. The best videos occur when the students submit the digital versions of their presentations prior to the video editing.
- There are no known issues at this time.

ACTION: Walt requested that board members volunteer to judge the competition.

Around the Table

- Rich – Additional progress made with the Entrepreneurship series.
- Harry – Spoke to someone at Penn Invention and his firm will present at an IP workshop.
- Brad – Is now working for the largest wholesale supplier of electrical equipment in the world.
- Jocelyn will attend Oxford University MBA program in the Fall.



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Adjournment

The board meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22, 2009. The meeting will be held via conference call.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Farnia Fresnel