



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 15, 2013 6pm, Room 307 Levine

Attendees:

Dean Eduardo Glandt		Robert Berkovits – D	X	Nisar Amin – AL	
Matt Quale – Pres	X	Jim Brennan – D	X	Greg Bedrosian – AL	
Ernest Churchville – VP	X	Jeannine Carr – D	T	Jason Bethala – AL	
Carl Clyde – VP	X	Dane Carswell – D		Bob Boyce – AL	
Stan Warchaizer – VP	X	Andrew Franklin – D		Alison Capone – AL	
Seville Mannickarottu – Sec	X	Bill Kane – D	T	Ashish Chauhan – AL	
Henry (Hank) Guckes – Tres	X	Paul McLaughlin – D		Richard Cisek – AL	
		Russ Miller – D	X	David Goldstein – AL	
Brad Abrams – PP		Jay Olman – D	X	Ramsey Kraya – AL	T
Eric Benshetler – PP	X	Jason Rifkin – D	T	Nikos Lioutas – AL	X
Tim Carlsen – PP		Alan Schultz – D		Michael Magaraci – AL	X
Farnia Fresnel – PP	X			William McGill – AL	X
Marion Hubing – PP				Jeremy Reeh – AL	
Walter Korn – PP	X			Wayne Robbins – AL	
Dick Mulford – PP				Jane Fried Sheinfeld – AL	
Harris Romanoff – PP	X	Dawn Becket - AD	X	David Solomon – AL	
		Alison Capponi – AD		Dan White (CA) – AL	
Ellie Davis	X	Jocelyn Nelson – AD			
George Hain	X	Eileen McCarthy Feldman – AD			
Rosette Pyne	X	Craig Schorr – AD	T		
		Harry Vartanian – AD			



Dean's Welcome (E. Glandt)

- The Dean was not able to attend.

President's Welcome and Remarks (M. Quale)

- Meeting called to order at 6:01pm
- Thanked Farnia for all of her hard work and contributions in the past few years as president.
 - A commemorative plaque was presented to Farnia by Matt from the school and the board.
- Welcomed new participants:
 - On the phone: Ramsey Kraya. He graduated in 2011 with a PhD in MSE. He is currently in JHU doing a post doc.
 - Will McGill graduated in 2011 with a BSc in MSE and MEAM and then in 2012 with a Masters in MSE. He now works at PECO as an Associate Engineer; He found out about the society meetings through Jay during the Student networking event organized last year.
 - Michael Magaraci graduated in 2013 with a BSc in BE (M&T). He is currently working as a researcher in the lab of the Bioengineering professor, Brian Chow, as he prepares to apply to PhD programs.
- Carl Clyde returned and is doing well.

Approval of May 20, 2013 Minutes (M. Quale)

Open Action Items:

- Approved as is.

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

Action Items from May Minutes (S. Mannickarottu)

- **Farnia** – Ensure issue of letter to the graduating seniors goes out - Done
- **Farnia** – Correct the master copy of the Board slate – Alan 1959 degree; Ernest ENG to MSE; Stan 1953 to 1958 – Done
- **Matt** – need a new welcome page for the website – picture and contact info is up to date. - Done
- **Paul** – photo, contact info, bio for the website – outstanding
- **Bob** – photo, contact info, bio for the website - outstanding



Engineering Alumni Society

Open Action Items:

ACTION: Paul – photo, contact info, bio for the website - outstanding

ACTION: Bob – photo, contact info, bio for the website - outstanding

New Action Items:

ACTION:

Development Office Report (G. Hain)

- Expressed thanks to Farina and the previous board.
- Singh Center will be dedicated in October
- Currently, efforts are in place to fill the Singh Center.
- Matt asked if it is harder to raise money for a named chair. George responded that it is more difficult as people often don't understand the purpose of named chairs, in contrast to buildings, rooms, etc.
 - On a related note, George mentioned that a professorship is being named in Dean Glandt's honor.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

Career Services Report (R. Pyne)

- Career services is gearing up for the Engineering Career Day on Sept 12
- 93 companies are expected.
- They will have fewer companies this year because of concerns of it being a fire hazard.
- A special emphasis is being made to bring medical device manufacturers, and robotic companies.
- They will be bringing a second full time employee for Engineering: Beth Olsen. She has experience at Yale and Columbia.
- Rosette noted that when the career fair was in the Towne building, they would have 110 companies; it was however difficult to move and navigate the halls.
- As in previous years, there will be a reception the night before the career fair with Dean Glandt in the Glandt forum in the Singh Center.
- Rosette requested that if any alumni is working at a company, they should please request their HR people to have their employers come by for the career fair.
- They had over 1400 students last year.
- Matt pointed out that it took several years of requesting to get his company (Dow) to attend; Perseverance paid off.
- George asked if there were a lot of Masters students. Rosette responded that there were lots of Masters and PhD students.
- Companies have the opportunity to interview the next day.



Engineering Alumni Society

- George asked if Facebook had signed up. Rosette responded that Facebook, along with Amazon, Groupon and eBay will be participating. They are still working on Intel.
- Bob asked if employers are broken down by category when presented to students. Rosette answered that they are.
- NASA has several openings and are looking to recruit Penn Engineers.
- They will have a government fair later on in the fall.
- There are lots of startups coming to the Engineering Career Fair.
- Alan observed that Penn was listed at the bottom of University grads which Vanguard hires. Rosette pointed out that it is hard for Vanguard to compete with Morgan Stanley, and other large banks where Penn students would prefer working.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

Graduate Student BBQ Reminders (H. Guckes)

- Hank sent out information regarding the BBQ to the board through the listserv
- It was asked if a photographer would be present, and Eric said he would be there with his camera.
- Concern over the heat on Thursday was expressed.
- George asked if tables could be set inside.
- Farnia asked if the school had beach umbrellas to use. It turns out that they did not.
- George will make the arrangements to get hats, sign in, etc.
- George also stated that he would arrange for tables in the mezzanine and lobby of Levine.
- Ernest asked if the construction work and material near Bennet hall would effect things. George stated that arrangements were made to have it moved.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

Confirm Calendar 2013-2014 (All)

- Matt presented the calendar for 2013-2014.
- The February date is Presidents day, and the March meeting is St. Patrick's day, but all are fine with that.
- The April meeting is the first night of Passover.



Engineering Alumni Society

- A proposal was made to move it to the 21st.
- The motion passed.
- There is a preference to have the senior design competition for Thursday the 24th, along with the awards ceremony, rather than on Friday.
- Alan asked if it would be possible to avoid the usual conflict of the competition with Penn Relays?
- It turns out that the senior design competition date will need to be re-evaluated based on the change to the academic calendar.
- Farnia pointed out that graduation and the May board meeting were on the same day.
- The May meeting is moved to May 12th.
- It was requested that Matt include the career fair on the calendar.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Matt - move April meeting to the 21st.

ACTION: Matt - move May meeting to the 12th.

ACTION: Matt - re-evaluate day for senior design competition based on calendar – May 1st?

ACTION: Matt - include career fair on the calendar.

ACTION: Matt - redistribute calendar.

Review New Idea/Change Proposals

- Matt provided an overview of the new idea and changed initiative proposals. Those who sponsored the new idea or change spoke about the idea.
- Second-year externship program:
 - Discussion:
 - Rosette discussed her idea for a second-year externship program to be developed by Career Services and aided by the Alumni Society.
 - Just as freshman have a mentoring program, sophomores would have this externship opportunity.
 - Students (1 – 5) would visit with an alumnus for a ½ day or full-day at their workplace to see first hand the work they do.
 - The purpose of the program is to familiarize students with careers, encourage them to think about and gain personal development in assessing their interests and skills to determine if this is a career they wish to consider.
 - Students would be asked to write a blog about their experience following the externship.
 - It would occur over winter break, spring break or just after school ends in May.
 - Rosette requested the Society's involvement and someone on the board to help out with the program, just as with the mentoring program.
 - Approval Status: Approved.



Engineering Alumni Society

- Chair: Paul McLaughlin
- Committee: Carl Clyde, Ernest Churchville, Jay Olman
- Change Career Panels to Student Engagement
 - Discussion:
 - Jay noticed while trying to arrange career panels and networking dinners that student groups liked to have an Alumni Society liaison.
 - The two smaller events held last year were well received by their respective groups.
 - It would be ideal to have one board member work with one individual group.
 - Dawn then discussed her proposal to have an Alumni Society liaison for the Advancing Women in Engineering group at SEAS. The Director, Michele Grab liked the idea and felt that plenty of opportunities exist for the alumni to meet with students through AWE.
 - AWE already runs events with alumni, such as 'Tea with Alumni'. The Alumni Society Board could help out with this event.
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair Person: Jay Olman & Seville Mannickarottu
 - Committee: Dawn Beckett, William McGill
- Change Yarnall Award to Alumni Society Awards
 - Discussion:
 - Eric proposed expanding the focus of the current D. Robert Yarnall Award committee to include the other two awards currently granted in the Society's name: S. Reid Warren Jr. Award and the Engineering Alumni Society E. Stuart Eichert, Jr. Award.
 - The additional two awards will continue to be selected by the students/school as they are today, but a pro-forma vote will be held at a Board Meeting, if possible, or by the committee members if necessary due to timing.
 - George suggested that perhaps a committee member might be able to sit in on the meetings where the award recipients are decided.
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair Person: Jim Brennen
 - Committee: Eric Benshetler, Paul McLaughlin, Stan Warchaizer
- **By-Law Review**
 - Discussion:
 - Matt pointed out that the By-laws for the society states that they should be reviewed periodically and that it hasn't been done in a while.
 - Stan wondered about the value of the process. He stated that the last time it was done it was not helpful.
 - Harris pointed out that there are components that ought to be looked into, such as engaging with the board virtually.
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair: Jeannine Carr
 - Committee: Eric Benshetler, Ernest Churchville, Walt Korn, Seville Mannickarottu, Matt Quale, Stan Warchaizer



Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

Review Existing Events/Initiatives (M. Quale)

- Alumni Liaison
 - Discussion:
 - Continue the existing system by which the Vice-Presidents would mentor and work with alumni who express interest in being more actively involved with the Society.
 - Review the contact list in detail
 - Divide the list
 - Periodically contact those on the list serve + email list
 - Periodically issue surveys to gather feedback
 - Review post Homecoming, Alumni Weekend, BBQ
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair Persons: Ernest Churchville, Carl Clyde, Stan Warchaizer
 - Committee: Jim Brennan, Jay Olman, Robert (Bob) Berkovits
- Back to Penn Engineering
 - Discussion
 - Alan explained that last year the Board was invited to attend the ESE111 class.
 - It was well liked.
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair Persons: Alan Schultz
 - Committee: Paul McLaughlin
- SEAS Alumni Network
 - Discussion:
 - The networking event in NYC was a great success.
 - Jason asked that a report of the event be put on the agenda for the next meeting
 - George asked if the goal of the initiative was to connect with Alumni chapters or individuals. Jason explained that the goal was to connect with individuals.
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair Persons: Jason Rifkin
 - Committee: Robert (Bob) Berkovits, Farnia Fresnel, Nikos Lioutas, Jay Olman, Craig Schorr
- First Year Mentoring
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair: Carl Clyde
 - Committee: Farnia Fresnel, Nicos Lioutas
- Increasing participation in Alumni Activities



Engineering Alumni Society

- Discussion:
 - The possibility of ending this activity was discussed.
 - George asked how we might be able to put more energy into the event.
 - It was thought that we should have a person who is graduating in a year ending in 9 and 4 (they would have a reunion) be the chair.
- Approval Status: Approved
- Chair: Ernest Churchville
- Guest Speaker Series
 - Discussion:
 - Ernest is looking for three, perhaps four speakers for the coming year.
 - Bob has two ideas for the committee.
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair: Ernest Churchville
- Maintain EAS Website
 - Discussion:
 - Russ pointed out that it is an ongoing effort which takes time each month.
 - The Committee chair will need to work closely with the alumni society rep and the SEAS web person.
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair: Russell Miller
- Improve Social Networking presence
 - Discussion:
 - Russ explained that our LinkedIn is extremely popular.
 - Every week, Rosette and her team posts jobs on LinkedIn.
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair: Russell Miller
 - Committee: Hank Guckes, Bill Kane
- Update SEAS Wiki
 - Discussion:
 - Jim told us that we must continue to find folks who can help us put together an oral history.
 - George suggested we try to get in touch with Joe Bordogna, Art Humphry and Greg Farrington.
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair Person: Jim Brennan
 - Committee: Eric Benshetler, Hank Guckes, Jay Olman
- Patent/PE Presentation (PE Presentation for this year)
 - Discussion:
 - Matt informed us that each presentation is done in alternate years. This year will be the PE presentation.
 - Rosette requested it be done earlier this year, suggesting November.
 - Walt asked if with the new patent law, if another patent presentation ought to be given



Engineering Alumni Society

- this year. It was felt that the one given last year was adequate since it addressed the new law.
- George pointed out that Peter Detkin endowed the ‘tech clinic’ (Intellectual Property and Technology Legal Clinic) at Penn Law. In connection with this, they’ve hired someone to teach patent law in SEAS.
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair Person (For PE Presentation): Tim Carlsen
 - Committee: Bill Kane
 - Homecoming Weekend
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair Person: Jim Brennan
 - Senior Design Competition
 - Discussion:
 - This year, the committee will need to address how we’d deal with mixed teams and teams that win in multiple department competitions.
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair: Walt Korn & Stan Warchaizer
 - Committee: Eric Benshetler, Ernest Churchville, Seville Mannickarottu
 - Alumni Weekend
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair: Seville Mannickarottu
 - Graduate Student BBQ
 - Approval Status: Approved
 - Chair: Hank Guckes & Seville Mannickarottu

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Matt – Select members for the nominations committee

Approve Events/Initiatives (Directors)

- See notes above.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

Committee Chairs & Members

- See notes above.



Engineering Alumni Society

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

Around the Table (All)

- Alan said that it was a very worthwhile meeting.
- George thanked everyone for their time and effort. Asked all to take the leftover food. He also announced that on November 8th, Farnia will be the recipient of the Young Alumni of Merit Award at the Alumni Award of Merit Gala.
- Bob spoke about an upcoming aerospace conference sponsored by Wharton. Matt encouraged Bob to work with the LinkedIn committee to post it.
- Carl pointed out that all European financial transactions with the US have to go through Canada and may account for George not having all of the numbers.
- Harris congratulated Matt.
- Mike thanked the board for allowing him to sit in.
- Farnia thanked Matt for getting a \$5K sponsorship from Dow for the Penn Spectrum conference.
- Eric thanked the development office for providing dinner. He said that it was great to see so many people for the planning meeting. He recalled how in years past there would only be a small group.
- Rosette suggested that the school let Penn security know to have extra security for the BBQ. Ellie and George agreed to have their office call to make the arrangements.
- Will said that he was excited to be a part of the group.
- Jay stated that he is looking for a job and would be interested in any leads.
- Russ asked if there was an update on the senior design videos. Not yet. When will we start meeting in new building? Matt will work with development office.
- Stan pointed out that Joe, or the person in Joe's position normally provided an update of the Yarnall candidates.
- **ACTION: George** – Provide an updated of the Yarnall candidates to Jim.

Adjournment (M. Quale)

The board meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16, 2013 at 6pm in Room 307 Levine



Engineering Alumni Society

Hall (Location to be confirmed).

Minutes prepared and submitted by Seville Mannickarottu.