



Engineering Alumni Society

Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104

www.seas.upenn.edu/alumni/

Monday, May 11, 2009 in Room 307, Levine Hall

Attendees:

Alan Schultz	Farnia Fresnel*	Jim Brennan*	Robert Berkovits
Alison Capponi	George Hain	Jocelyn Nelson	Russ Miller
Brad Abrams*	Hank Guckes	Liz Kradjian	Stan Warchaizer
Carl Clyde	Harris Romanoff	Matt Quale	Tim Carlsen
Dane Carswell	Harry Vartanian	Nancy Harris	Walt Korn
Eric Benshetler	Janice Rafferty	Rich Cisek	William Kane*
Ernest Churchville			*via teleconference

President's Welcome and Remarks

Harris opened the meeting at 6:00. In writing annual report was excited about all that was accomplished and thanks to everyone for all that was accomplished

Dean's Remarks

The Dean was out of town.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved with one correction; in the Around the Table section John Jackson should be John Jackson Jr.

Development Office Report

George is back in the US. Thanks to those involved with the Yarnell award; this year was the best year ever. There is some sad news; Jim Yarnell passed away a few weeks ago, the Yarnell award is named for his father. Engineering Development is having a good year. There is a large special gift that is in the hands of the lawyer. The special gift



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would be spread over a 5 year period. The Annual fund is north of \$900K, possible \$925K. The annual fund is a lagging economic indicator, so there is a concern about next years giving. There is some hope for 7 figure gifts. First time donors are down about 10% which is about 100 donors. People considering big gifts are holding off on the big gifts. The good news is traders on Wall Street are making money again.

President Amy Gutmann is scheduled to come by the Engineering tent at 2 pm. The Alumni weekend schedule is changed; the parade is in the morning then march to your tent.

Career Services

Rosette is in Houston. There are 2 new initiatives; a few alumni doing "a day in the life of an alumnus/ae" on twitter and making short videos (1 to 1.5 minutes) on mentoring. Career Services is looking for volunteers for these initiatives in the fall. Video taping for the short videos is to be done during the summer.

Senior Design Competition

Thanks to all judges and thanks to Janice for data entry and correlating of all the abstracts. Video of the presentations was taken but has not been viewed yet. The money issues were resolved with video taping. The day started with 37 judges and had 35 at the end of the day; with a final count of 28. The projects were very good. Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 2 honorable mentions. 1st prize score was 25.32, 2nd prize score was 23.4, 3rd prize score was 23.2, and the 2 honorable mentions scores' were in the 22 range. The scores went over a cliff after that. Thanks to Russ for posting the abstracts on the website. Things work smoothly; although one dept picked 4 teams instead of 3 when only 3 teams were allowed. One winning team was an inter-disciplinary team of ME and EE. The team may want to consider addressing inter-disciplinary teams systemically for next year. Currently there are 3 winners for each department but that is not proportional for students per each department. For future competitions proportioning the number of teams to the number of students in each department may want to be considered.

Yarnall Award Wrap up

It was a great night – Walt Korn gave a very gracious speech. There was good board members attendance. Overall, it was a great night.

Alumni Weekend Planning

Everyone should be in the tent by 2 pm.



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Mentoring update

Mentoring is alive and well. Emails went out to freshman to remind them to contact mentors. There are 46 students in the program this year which is consistent with previous years. All the students who were interested in the program received mentors.

Website, LinkedIn, Facebook Updates

The EAS website was updated. Thanks to Walt and Janice for providing new content quickly. LinkedIn had jumped to 328 up 100. Facebook is up to 28 people. The EAS website has links to LinkedIn and Facebook. The initiative to email outgoing seniors and provide links to Facebook is continuing.

Engineering Alumni Ambassadors Update

Background work continues to shape the program.

Increasing SEAS reunion Participation

If you are in undergraduate classes ending in 4 or 9; this is your year to celebrate. If you are in undergraduate classes ending in 0 or 5 contact your class representative to help in next year's planning; it usually begins in the summer.

Presentation of BOD Nominees for 2009-2010

Board nominees were approved as presented.

SEAS Wiki Page

MIT and Cornell's engineering school's wiki page were used as examples. Information was collected from authoritative sources. The history is light after ENIAC. A famous alumni section was added and Biomedical program was added. The University page is set up for a paragraph for every school. Wharton and the Medical school have built out their pages. The primary author can be notified of changes. Also changes can be rolled back. A draft of the page was set out today to everyone. Also maybe have Yarnell award winners as engineer accomplishments.

Around The Table

Harry's wedding date is set for Sept 12. Jocelyn's sister is graduating this May and received first alumni email. Russ asked for final year review update. Hank remarked that the senior design presentations were excellent. Alan is celebrating his 50th reunion and 50% of the MEs are returning. Walt thanked Farnia for scribing at senior design competition. Eric remarked that President Amy Gutmann is scheduled to speak between 10:30 to 11:30 at Huntsman and the parade is at noon. Farnia commented that the senior design presentations are getting better each year. George has 30th reunion and his



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daughter is graduating from the college. George also thanked the board on behalf of the school. Liz encouraged participation in career services initiatives. Janice thanked the board for a great year. Tim thanked Russ for all the hard work keeping the website up-to-date; personally used it much in past few days. Harris thanked the board for a great year and thanked George and Janice for their support.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 27, 2009.

Minutes prepared and submitted by,

Carl Clyde