



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 21, 2013 6pm, Room 307 Levine

Attendees:

Dean Eduardo Glandt	X	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		Jason Bethala – AL	
Carl Clyde – VP	X	Dane Carswell – D	X	Bob Boyce – AL	
Stan Warchaizer – VP	X	Andrew Franklin – D		Alison Capone – AL	
Seville Mannickarottu – Sec	X	Bill Kane – D		Ashish Chauhan – AL	
Henry (Hank) Guckes – Tres	X	Paul McLaughlin – D	T	Richard Cisek – AL	
		Russ Miller – D	T	David Goldstein – AL	
Brad Abrams – PP		Jay Olman – D	X	Ramsey Kraya – AL	
Eric Benshetler – PP	X	Jason Rifkin – D	T	Nikos Lioutas – AL	T
Tim Carlsen – PP	X	Alan Schultz – D	X	Michael Magaraci – AL	
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	T	Dawn Becket - AD	X	David Solomon – AL	
		Alison Capponi – AD		Dan White (CA) – AL	
Ellie Davis	X	Jocelyn Nelson – AD			
Gabrielle Gary	X	Eileen McCarthy Feldman – AD			
George Hain	X	Craig Schorr – AD			
Rosette Pyne	X	Harry Vartanian – AD			



President's Welcome and Remarks (M. Quale)

- The meeting was called to order at 6pm.
- Matt described the amazing opening ceremony for the K.P. Singh Center
 - There was an incredibly moving speech by Krishna Singh
 - The event included dancers who came down the open staircase.
- There will be a tour of the Singh Center available during homecoming.

Dean's Welcome (E. Glandt)

- The Dean described the opening ceremony as an incredible event through the efforts of many people.
- He noted that most of the speeches were scripted, except for Krishna Singh who discussed his life story; He had come from a small village and what he has now accomplished is incredible.
- The task now is to fill the Singh center.
- Every piece of equipment is very expensive with expensive service agreements.
- They've recruited two 'superstars' – senior faculty who are well known in their fields; They are hoping to hire a total of five senior faculty.
 - Mark Allen, the scientific director of the Singh Center, arrived on September 1st.
 - Mark did his undergraduate degree at Penn, triple majoring in Chemical Engineering, Chemistry and Electrical Engineering; He went on to obtain a PhD at MIT.
 - He was most recently at Georgia Tech where he served as the Vice Provost for Research
 - Mark brings with him the savvy of having run large facilities, his numerous contacts, and incredible experience.
 - They also hired Harald Giessen in the area of Photonics
 - Directed the Max-Planck institute at Stuttgart.
 - Was educated in the USA
 - They are now looking for someone on the bio-side.
- Once they have recruited the senior people, they will start recruiting junior faculty
- Dean Glandt pointed out that to recruit senior folks, the draw is not usually money, benefits etc; rather, it is often related to the individual's family connections, luck, etc.
- It has been another record year in terms of undergraduate student applications.
- Applications for Masters and PhDs have remained steady.
- SEAS, M&T and Viper programs saw increased applications, which improved Penn's overall acceptance rate.
- There were also a record number of transfers from other programs into Engineering.
- As of now, there are no real-estate projects
 - One hope is to add two floors to Levine.
 - Two days ago, SEAS inaugurated a new program on network and data sciences – the Warren Center; It is connected with the Networked and social systems engineering (NETS) program; The center is funded by Fred and Robin Warren (one of the trustees). Alvin Roth (father of Aaron Roth, Assistant Professor in CIS) was one of the speakers at the ceremony. Roth is famous for having won the 2012 Nobel Prize in economics. He is



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known for having developed the program to assign residents to hospitals and the program to assign kidney donor with recipients. He shows how network science improves lives.

Approval of the September 16, 2013 Minutes (M. Quale)

- Approved as is.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

Action Items from May Minutes (S. Mannickarottu)

- **Paul** – needs photo, contact info, bio for the website - done
- **Bob** – needs photo, contact info, bio for the website. – Bob still needs to update the picture.
- **Matt** – Select members for the nominations committee – Selected.
- **Hank**: Update planning sheet to reflect having two lines - pending
- **Hank**: Update planning sheet to request security - pending
- **Hank**: Update planning sheet to have announcement state that US issued photo ID or passport is required to get alcohol - pending
- **Seville** – Add Tim and Walt to the awards committee and redistribute contact list. – done.
- **Russ**: Event description for “Alumni Society Awards” - updated
- **Matt**: Double check date for the Awards reception and will add it to the calendar. – no change will be made.

Open Action Items:

ACTION: Bob – update picture for website

ACTION: Hank – Update planning sheet to reflect having two lines, request security and to include in the invite e-mail that US issued photo ID or passport is required to get alcohol

Development Office Report (G. Hain)

- George explained that the development office has new priorities now that the building projects are over.
- George noted that Homecoming is coming up.



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- Calls have begun to request donations; Hoping the callers are pushing for higher gifts.
- Russ noted that his wife got a call from the Engineering Fund. He himself had not received a call; He noted that they were aggressive and followed up w/ an email.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

Career Services Report (R. Pyne)

- Jeff Fluhr cofounder of StubHub and a Penn alum will be coming to Penn. He is hoping to interview students. He has a new startup.
- MEAM held a ‘summer showcase’ where students discuss their summer work experiences; Faculty members were judges. Katherine Kuchenbecker, the MEAM Undergrad chair, spoke with Rosette about having it as a board activity and to use board as judges as well.
- Tim pointed out that the PE presentation, in collaboration with Career Services, will be coming up soon – They have a Bioengineer, Robert Cargill (Masters in 91, PhD 94), this year on the panel. The event is being held on Nov 12th at 6pm in Heilmeier Hall.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

Confirm Nomination Committee Membership (M. Quale)

- Matt reached out to Farnia, the current Past President to be chair (as per by-laws) as well as four other past presidents, Harris, Tim, Brad and Eric, to be on the board.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

Alumni Society Awards Update (J. Brennan)

- Jim discussed the criteria for the selection committee in selecting the Yarnall award nominee.
- Thanked the committee.
- He noted that there is a committee nominee and a back-up
- They had 11 candidates which they narrowed down to two people
- Please contact Jim or any of the committee members if you have any questions before the vote: Eric, Paul, Stan, Walt or Tim.



Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

Homecoming Update (J. Brennan)

- Jim encouraged everyone to attend as the event is always fun.
- Gabrielle pointed out that Singh center tour is extremely popular and there is currently a waiting list. Friday's tour is currently not full.
- Bob suggested creating a virtual tour.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

Second Year Externship (P. McLaughlin)

- Paul (calling in from China) mentioned that this is a new program
- Heading the program, he asked two questions: What is the program? What is the opportunity for the board to engage?
- Met w/ Beth Olsen in Career Services who explained that the program is styled after a program that Wharton has.
- In this program, the student would meet with their alumni contact in early January during the holiday break.
 - Go on site to a work place – shadow people; participate in activities.
- Paul & Beth are hoping for 20-30 students
- The initial kick-off this coming January.
- The Board's role is to get the word out.
- Jay suggested putting a LinkedIn post to get the word out.
- Paul and Rosette pointed out that the externship does not have to be in Philly but anywhere that Penn students might be during the holidays.
- Rosette also pointed out that an alum can take more than one student
- They are looking for alumni who do any type of work
- Matt pointed out that for those who are involved with the board or are interested in getting involved but are not in the area, this is a great opportunity to be engaged.

Open Action Items:



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New Action Items:

ACTION:

Back to Penn Engineering (A. Schultz)

- Alan discussed the second annual Back to Engineering event.
- Board members are invited to attend the ESE111 class to be held in November 18th at 4:30pm Towne 303.
- Alan pointed out that by attending the one session you will feel proud to be connected to Penn Engineering.
- He especially thanked Paul for reaching out to other faculty for other class sessions.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Matt - will send out invite to board

Student Engagement Committee (J. Olman)

- Jay mentioned the AWE (Advancing Women in Engineering) event which took place on 10/18 which Dawn discussed.
 - Dawn explained that the AWE event was a faculty and alumni Tea. There were 10-12 faculty and 7 alumni; There were almost 50-60 students.
 - Michele Grab who runs AWE was very engaging.
 - Michele Grab thanked everyone and gave the floor to Farnia who spoke a bit about the Alumni Society.
 - Dawn suggested that they should have a 'take-away' similar to the BBQ event for the alumni and students.
 - Special thanks Dave Goldstein, Bob and Farnia who attended the event.
- Seville discussed the upcoming Bioengineering event
 - The student group, BMES, is organizing the event.
 - The event will take place on November 7th, just before homecoming.
 - From 6-8pm in Irvine Auditorium's Amado Recital room. This room is set up to hold events of this sort.
 - There are 12 confirmed attendees, and they are hoping to have about 40-50 students.
 - The Bioengineering Department will be paying for the food and also travel expenses for alumni in the area.
 - Rosette pointed out that there are a number of company presentations scheduled for that day.
 - In future, groups should contact Rosette to determine a date for events.
- Matt mentioned that AIChE is also hosting event on the 7th – Dow is sponsoring.



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Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Jay/Sevile – update planning sheet to reflect having ‘take-aways’ and to work w/ Rosette when determining dates for events.

Maintaining the EAS Website (R. Miller)

- Added redacted July Planning Meeting Minutes to the Document Archive
- Added Paul McLaughlin’s Photo and Biography to the “Meet The Board” Web page
- Added a new link to the EAS Calendar on the right hand side of the EAS Welcome page
- Updated the “Alumni Society Awards” Section of the “Events” Web page to reflect the expanded role per the July Planning Meeting.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

Improving Social Network Presence Update (R. Miller)

- Russ mentioned that there are up to 2930 people
- Receiving great content from committee, individual alumni and Career services.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

Around the Table (All)



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- Farnia – Will be in Istanbul for work and will miss the next meeting
- Bob – Might be away for next meeting;
- Dane – Started a new job
- Eric – Paul might have set the record for the call from the farthest distance (China); Farnia will be receiving Young Alumni of Merit Award.
- Jay - Suggested providing a prize for the 3000th member to join. Matt pointed out that it should not be announced, otherwise there will not be any new members as the number approaches 3000 as folks will wait to join in the hope of winning the prize.
- Tim – Pizza and soda for PE presentation? Development office will provide.
- Will – Whom to contact for senior design committee? Walt – me – you are in!
- Matt – Sign up for the alumni of merit gala.

ACTION: Seville – add Will to contact list

Adjournment (M. Quale)

The board meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm.

Guest Speaker (Professor Emeritus Iraj Zandi)

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2013 at 6:00pm in Room 307 Levine Hall (Location to be confirmed).

Minutes prepared and submitted by Seville Mannickarottu.