



Engineering Alumni Society

Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA 19104

www.seas.upenn.edu/alumni/

Monday, September 28, 2015 6pm, Room 108 Towne

Attendees:

Dean Vijay Kumar	X	Dawn Becket – D	T	Lyle Brunhofer – AL	
Matt Quale – Pres	X	Robert Berkovits – D	X	Alison Capone – AL	
Russ Miller – VP	X	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	X	David Goldstein – AL	
Sevile Mannickarottu – Sec	X	Hank Guckes – D	X	Bernard A. Jones Jr. - AL	
Jason Rifkin – Tres	T	William McGill – D		Jonathan Lombardo - AL	X
		Paul McLaughlin – D	T	Wendy Sardinsky - AL	
Brad Abrams – PP		Jay Olman – D	X	Matthew Serota – AL	
Eric Benshetler – PP	X	Craig Schorr – D	T	Nishal N. Shah - AL	
Tim Carlsen – PP	X	Heather Stern – D		David Solomon – AL	
Farnia Fresnel – PP	T				
Marion Hubing – PP		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	X
Harris Romanoff – PP		Harry Vartanian – AD		Rosette Pyne – F/S	T

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 6:00 pm.
- Welcomed everyone.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

II. Report of the Dean (V. Kumar)

- Pleasure to be able to host this meeting in the Dean's conference room.
- Delighted to meet the Board.
- Been on the job for about 100 days.
- It's an extraordinary time to be in the field of technology.
- The incredible growth of technology started with the semi-conductor industry and now 3D printing and sequencing. The cost of 3D printing and sequencing has been decreasing significantly.
- Great time to be part of Penn Engineering: There were approximately 9200 applications for about 400 seats. The school has come out ahead of Wharton and MIT, etc.
- Women now constitute 42% of the class which is great.
- In Bioengineering, there's a new startup, Bio-bots, which 3D prints biological materials.
- The Electric race-car team is doing well: it won in 7 of 8 categories.
- Robotics is doing really well. Penn won the Robocup soccer competition.
- Material Science students are working on a startup, Alphabet Energy, which appeared on NPR.
- Penn has established the Pennovation campus in West Philadelphia: It includes the Penn Center for Innovation and various incubators.
- Steve Case, co-founder of AOL, will award \$100K to a Philadelphia startup during a pitch contest on September 29th.
- It's around the time of the 70th anniversary of the first NY Times article on the ENIAC.
- Technology is essential to anything we do.
- Hoping to grow faculty by about 1/3. Space is an issue.
- Matt: Welcome you to our meetings at any time. We greatly appreciate the support from the Development Office, Career Services, and the Dean.
- Tim: How is Nanotechnology doing amongst undergraduates? Dean Kumar: The barrier for entry is very low. The usage by undergraduate students has been increasing.
- Tim: Is there a focus or goal in Nanotechnology? Dean Kumar: Most of the research before was by Physicists and Chemists. The new push is devices and systems. Mark Allen who runs the facility is spearheading this. The Singh Center recently won the \$5M NSF



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- grant establishing it as the mid-Atlantic Nanotechnology hub.
- Stan: There's a big push in the university to engage disciplines together. There's just so much you can do in four years, and I worry about students working in multiple disciplines that the focus is not there. Dean Kumar: This is an important question and something that we ask ourselves constantly. Currently, students are taking fewer courses outside of Engineering, not because we told students to do this, but employees are expecting it.
 - Bob: There are issues with safety, such as with drones. Is there any work at looking at regulations? I know that Claire Finkelstein at Penn Law has been doing work on this. Dean Kumar: Technology is so central to any issue. We are working with the Law School and with Claire Finkelstein. Privacy, security, and safety are all concerns.
 - Farnia: Is it possible to have a tour of the Pennovation Center? Dean Kumar: Definitely, but due to construction work, would have to be after January.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Alan – In connection with “Back to Penn Engineering”, arrange a lab tour of Dean Kumar’s lab.

ACTION: Alan – In connection with “Back to Penn Engineering”, arrange a tour of the Pennovation Center after January.

III. President’s Welcome and Remarks (M. Quale)

- There were a few committee changes. Seville and Jay spoke and Seville will be chairing the Philly Networking event, which previously did not have one, and Jay will be chairing the ESAC Student Engagement committee.
- Will McGill, due to additional work responsibilities, has stepped down as chair of the awards committee; Jim will return to this position.
- Homecoming is coming up! Stan: I’ve posted on LinkedIn.
- Signed up for a Coursera course.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Matt – Ask Elise Betz about providing earlier notice to Alumni about the Graduate Student/Alumni Mixer

ACTION: Matt – Update the calendar for Senior Design to April 28th

ACTION: Matt – Update the committee lists



IV. Development Office Report (G. Hain)

- We had a terrific year.
- They are looking to grow the faculty from 113 to 150. Many of prospective hires require endowed chairs/faculty support.
- Huge year in endowed chairs.
- Did not do particularly well in capital projects, but this was because there were no capital projects planned.
- Scholarship endowments help us tremendously.
- Leave estates to Penn Engineering, not just Penn.
- Encouraged the board to help get more donors.
- Bob: Do you tell every graduating class to donate even a small amount? George: Yes.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

V. Career Services Report (R. Pyne)

- Thank Hank and David Solomon for helping with mock interview.
- Career fair went very well:
 - 105 companies. 300 reps, more than 1/3 were alumni.
- Reaching out to alumni for interest in the mentorship and externship programs.
- Running workshops in the school and elsewhere.
- MEAM held a showcase on summer jobs held by students. It was fascinating. It had company judges.
- 2015 class survey is taking place now.
- All incoming Masters students are required to attend a job ethics workshop to be a part of on-campus recruiting services.
- Considering a 2-day career fair. There were a couple of dozen companies on the wait list this year.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:



VI. Old Business:

a. Approval of the July 20, 2015 Minutes (Directors)

- Approved.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

b. Open Action Item Review (S. Mannickarottu)

- None.

Open Action Items:

ACTION:

c. Graduate Student BBQ Recap (H. Guckes)

- Will have the recap it available for the next event.
- Seville – Pre-registration worked really well. Thank you, Gabrielle!

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

d. NYC Alumni Event Recap (J. Rifkin)

- The event was held about a week and a half ago.
- Only about 30 attended of the 60-65 RSVPs which was fewer than in previous events.
- Invited alumni from the last 10 years.
- People came alone but no one stood alone during the event. It went very well.
- Perhaps expand the alumni range.
- Matt: 50% response from RSVPs is what can be expected.

Open Action Items:



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New Action Items:

ACTION: Owner – None

VII. New Business:

a. Back to Penn Engineering (A. Schultz)

- Invited to attend Circuits and Systems class, ESE 111.
- Scheduled for 4:30-6pm on Monday November 16.
- Includes a lab tour.
- Save the date.
- Alan was told by Sid, ESE Lab Director, that the course has doubled in its enrollment.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION:

b. Philly Alumni Networking (S. Mannickarottu)

- Spoke to Jason Rifkin about the NY event.
- Spoke to Jay and discussed idea.
- Need to collect list from the Development Office.
- Looking to keep the event open to all alumni in the area.
- Plan to hold it in early April.
- Location: Old City or Center City. Need to identify a specific place. Suggestions are welcome.
- Matt: 2nd and South – Cavanaugh's Headhouse has a private room.
- Stan worried that Penn Club of Philadelphia might be concerned.
- George – invite Masters students? Matt: There are events already connecting Masters students with alumni..
- Stan: Perhaps we should contact the group that organizes the Masters event earlier.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

ACTION: Eric – follow up with Penn Alumni club to confirm that they'd be fine if EAS held its own Philly networking event.



VIII. Around the Table (All)

- Dawn: Based on discussions in the planning meeting, reached out to Michael Rainey to see if she'd be interested in attending an EAS meeting. Also reached out to the SWE-Philadelphia contacts of possible collaboration opportunities.
- Ernest: My company was hired as a contractor to teach at the Philadelphia Technician training institute. Teaching 35 hours a week. Still continuing with Widener.
- Farnia: Had the opportunity of speaking to the incoming class of freshmen women in Penn Engineering, arranged by AWE. It was a great experience.
- Matt: Introduced Jon Lombardo who was an attendee at the patent forum.
- Jon: Met Tim at the Patent forum event. Excited to be involved.
- Eric: Introduced Stephanie Yee from the Philly Alumni Club.
- Walt: Date for senior design competition has been changed to Thursday April 28th. Senior awards reception is still in a state of flux. Will keep you posted.
- Bob: Would the 19th of next month be possible for a speaker? Matt: As we won't have the larger room for a few months, and this room is incredibly small, perhaps January? At the BBQ, Dean asked about the Wharton aerospace conference. Will forward information to him.
- Russ: Stan mentioned he posted on LinkedIn about Homecoming. Noticed that no board member has posted – Please do!

New Action Items:

ACTION:

IX. Adjournment (M. Quale)

- Adjourned at 7:02 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2015 at 6:00pm in Room 108 Towne (Location to be confirmed).

Minutes prepared and submitted by Seville Mannickarottu.