

**Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors**  
*University of Pennsylvania*  
*Philadelphia, PA 19104*  
[eas.seas.upenn.edu](http://eas.seas.upenn.edu)

**Monday, May 7, 2018 6pm, Room 307 Levine**

**Attendees:**

<b>Executive:</b>		<b>Directors:</b>		<b>At-Large Members:</b>	
Dean Vijay Kumar		Robert Berkovits	T	Oladayo Adewole	
Seville Mannickarottu - Pres.	X	Lyle Brunhofer		Sarah Badin	
Dawn Becket - VP		Hank Guckes		Andrew Botelbo	
Jim Brennan - VP	X	Lauren Hedvat	T	Alison Capone	
Paul McLaughlin - VP		Yijie Hu	T	Parth Chopra	
Jay Olman - Sec	X	Bernard Jones	X	David Goldstein	
Carl Clyde - Tres		Jonathan Lombardo	T	Nimay Kulkarni	
		Ramsey Kraya		Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos	X
<b>Past Presidents:</b>		Jason Rifkin	T	Aastha Puri	
Brad Abrams		Craig Schorr		Manasi Puri	
Eric Benshetler	T	Alan Schultz		Matthew Serota	
Tim Carlsen	T	Heather Stern		Jane Fried Sheinfeld	
Farnia Fresnel	T			David Solomon	
Marion Hubing		<b>Associate Directors:</b>		Aditya Sreekumar	
Walter Korn		Ernest Churchville		Jeremy Wang	
Dick Mulford		William McGill		Stan Warchaizer	
Matt Quale	X	Russ Miller			
Harris Romanoff		Jeffrey Ng	T	<b>Faculty/Staff:</b>	
		Leah Suttner		George Hain	
				Jamie Grant	T
				Brad Richards	X
				<b>Guests:</b>	
				Jonathan Dunsay	T

- I. Call to Order (S. Mannickarottu)**
  - Called to order at 6:01pm
- II. President's Welcome & Remarks (S. Mannickarottu)**
  - Thank you all for coming to the annual meeting.
  - A couple things:
    - Senior Design went really well (report from Jay later)
    - After Senior Design, there was an awards ceremony for students and Yarnall Award for Eduardo Glandt (thanks Jim)—this was really nice.
    - I posted on LinkedIn and got more likes than any other post!
    - S. Reid Warren, Jr. and E. Stuart Eichert, Jr. awards announced.
    - Thanks to Brad for getting all of this stuff in order
- III. Development Office Report (G. Hain)**
  - George is in Las Vegas right now, so no report this evening from the development office.
- IV. Career services report (J. Grant)**
  - Delighted to announce that we've added our third team member, Kevin Haines. He's running the mentorship program.
  - Career Day registrations have been going up and up and up; takes place the week of Labor Day
  - Now entering period of time when students are thinking about graduating rather than talking to Career Services, so things are slowing down a bit for now.
  - Looking forward to the planning meeting in the summer!
- V. Nominations Committee Report (M. Quale)**
  - Everyone should have received the proposed Board of Directors slate
  - The only change is that Alan has asked to step down and become an Associate Director
  - The vote is open to the Alumni Society at large, not just board members
  - Seville: thanks everyone for voting. Welcome to the board Jeffrey. Thank you Matt for organizing.
  - Thank you to Seville and the rest of the board for an outstanding 2017-18 year!
- VI. Old Business**
  - A. Approval of April 9, 2018 Minutes (Directors)
    - Approved without changes
  - B. Open Action Item Review (J. Olman)
    - Jay's investigation of video for Senior Design
      - Working on getting videos from both this and last year approved and onto the site.
  - C. Externship / Mentoring Program (P. McLaughlin)
    - Paul isn't able to make it to this evening's meeting.
    - Jamie: The externship program will be starting earlier this year

- We're looking for more sponsors and hosts for students this year.
- One thing we're talking about pitching to the board is establishing a small fund to help facilitate student travel to get to externship programs, especially for first-gen and low-income students. We're going to have a team retreat at the end of May to figure out how to do that.
- Wrapped up matching for mentoring program, so the students and their mentors should all be in touch with each other.
- We'll learn more in the fall about how everything has gone.
- Seville: Currently, the mentoring program doesn't include Master's students, right? Have we considered including them?
  - Jamie: We've considered programs like that. I know that the university as a whole is considering adopting a new platform to use to more easily facilitate additional mentoring programs.
  - Matt: If we do this, let's make sure the mentors have the opportunity to opt in to mentoring undergrads or grad students or both.

#### D. PE Presentation (3/29) (T. Carlsen)

- To be honest, the presentation this year was disappointing.
- In the past, we've had up to 40 students attend, but this year we had two.
- The two students got a great presentation and we had a great conversation with them.
- Sounds like everything that was done in the past promotionally was also done this time around.
- Not sure why this wasn't well-attended, but perhaps we should give this a break for a while and see whether it's something that's desired by the school and the students.
- Matt: That kind of drop is crazy. I can imagine interest dwindling down or even being cut in half, but this is a HUGE drop. I wonder if there was another event going on at the same time.
- I wonder if we could get the dean to endorse, but I also wonder if there just isn't the same amount of interest. Also wondering if students are getting their information online or elsewhere, but it's not worth the time and effort if there's not going to be any interest in the future.
- Farnia: Were Master's students invited as well?
  - Tim: Yes, one of the students was a grad student and the other was a MEAM undergrad.
- Bob: I wonder if we could do something at lunchtime.
  - Tim: You raise a good point—I wonder if there was a timing issue.
- Jamie: One thing is that we did this a bit later in the year than usual. I also recall this being the first nice-weather day of the spring, so I wonder what effect that had. Seems like something before spring break would probably be more ideal.

- Brad: Looking at the calendar, that Thursday night would've been the lead-in to Good Friday and Passover, so I wonder how much that may have affected attendance. Also wondering: do they have to RSVP, to get a sense of interest ahead of time?
  - Tim: We haven't done that in the past, but we could consider that in the future.
  - Jamie: I'll incorporate that into our planning for the next one.
  - Tim: Maybe we could do it in the fall semester next time around. This appears to be the latest one we've ever done.
- Jim: Do you think it has something to do with the mix of students we have, such that they're going into areas where a PE isn't required?
  - Tim: That's a good question. We've gotten mostly mechanical, electrical, and biomechanical engineers. The actual licensing board is opened quite wide to computer science to multiple different mechanical certifications, so it's changed and broadened a lot recently.
- Jay:
  - First time students are hearing about this?
  - Investigate in off-years to see whether there's interest?
  - Work with student groups to gauge interest rather than just faculty/staff
- Farnia: Does the school actually track who goes on to become professional engineers?
  - Jamie: I wish I could say yes, but we don't even have a sense of how many students sit for the exam. Unless there's some need for a faculty endorsement, I don't know how we'd track it.
  - Tim: My read is that a lot of Penn engineers do not become PEs. I work with some, but there aren't many I cross paths with. There's the possibility that it's just becoming less important to students.
- Matt: One last comment: one thing we can do is check QuakerNet to see which people list themselves as professional engineers, and I only found 42.

#### E. Insider's Guide Panel (4/16) (L. Hedvat)

- Vasiliki and I were able to pull together the panel with Jamie and Seville and the team.
- Rosette had been talking about this and it was great to see it come to fruition.
- We had a fairly diverse panel and ended up with 35-40 students in attendance.
- We had some good discussions about how to work with colleagues, managers, people across different generations.
- People walked away feeling like it was helpful, per feedback we received from attendees. Sounds like there's potential for a repeat event next year.

- Seville: We were nervous when the first person walked in, but it turned out to be a great event. It was actually a lot of fun. I think it's worth continuing.
  - It's interesting—I think most of the students were Master's students and not quite as many juniors and seniors. I think Brad and the Master's dean Boon sent out some information prior to the event.
  - I wonder how often we should do this. I could see it being yearly and I could see it being less often.
  - Jay: If there are more Master's students, maybe every year, but if people are going to be able to hear about it more, perhaps every other year is fine.
  - Vasiliki: I think every year is good. It's pretty easy to put together.
- Lauren: I think with more notice and doing it earlier in the year, we'd get more interest and attendance.
- Brad: I work with EMAB on the mixer event in the spring. I think if we engaged more with student groups, it might be easier to make more events really great. Maybe there are more partners out there we can work with. If we want more people to turn out, it's best to partner with the leadership of the student groups.

F. Senior Design Competition (4/27) (J. Olman)

- Went really smoothly
- Winner Lifewatch
- Thanks to judges, Brad, Eric, Lyle, Walt
- CBE recognize it's a communication event
- Seville: went really well
- All MEAM groups won
- We should take a look at prize amounts
- Eric: I think the prize has been \$800 from the start of the competition (probably starting in 95 or 96 (Tim)) -- Matt: by 98, we had the current format
- Bob: We used to have engineers day back in the 50s and 60s
- Curb non-judge Q&A (something for committee to discuss)

G. Regional Engineering Alumni - Philly (5/2) (J. Lombardo)

- Didn't get a massive turnout, but we had probably 30 people or so. Definitely pleased with the turnout.
- Venue had an area reserved for us, so we had plenty of room.
- Seemed like about half the attendees were new folks who'd probably received the invitations.
- I think overall it was good and I hope we can continue to build up the turnout.
- Seville: It went well. Jon was kind enough to buy appetizers for the group too!

**VII. New Business**

A. Alumni Weekend (5/12) (J. Brennan)

- If you're a class ending in 3 or 8, there's a massive menu of things to do.
- Even if you're not, our tent event takes place in the afternoon. Come have a beer and smile in a photo with the president.
- Brad: President Gutmann will deliver remarks in the tent at 1pm sharp. If you're around and on campus, come by starting at 12:30 and definitely by 1.
- Seville: Even if you haven't registered, if you happen to be on campus, come by! Get people from your class tent to come by as well.

**VIII. Around the table (All)**

- Bob: Looking forward to discussing in the summer how to get more speakers for the board.
- Jon L.: Not registered for the event yet, but I'll be there.
- Jeffrey: Thanks to everyone for the nomination. I look forward to the planning meeting.
- Jon D.: I'll be there on Saturday!
- Eric: I'm registered and I'll be there.
- Vasiliki: See you Saturday!
- Jay: I really liked how Eduardo Glandt, in his Yarnall Award acceptance, talked only about his time as a student rather than his tenure as dean. It seemed really appropriate and nice.
- Seville: Thanks a lot for a great year! See you at the July 16th planning meeting. (There will be food!)

**IX. Adjourned (S. Mannickarottu)**

- Adjourned at 7:04pm.

***The next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2018 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in Room 307 Levine Hall.***

Minutes prepared and submitted by Jay Olman.



