Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors

University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA 19104 eas.seas.upenn.edu

Monday, July 16, 2018 6pm, Room 221 Singh

Attendees:

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

I. Call to Order (S. Mannickarottu)

- Call to order at 6:12pm
- Thanks to everyone for coming

II. President's Welcome & Remarks (S. Mannickarottu)

■ Penn Club of Philadelphia open house September 25th

III. Development Office Report (G. Hain)

- I know this is a FY 2019 meeting, but I want to thank you all for everything you've done in the past year.
- Currently in major capital campaign—about three years left
- Huge year for annual giving—most donors ever
- Going forward, focusing on labs

IV. Career Services Report (J. Grant)

- Still planning for 2018-19
- Engineering career fairs on September 5th and 6th (divided by alphabet)
- Some big changes
 - Our director, Pat Rose, is retiring (after 30 years!)
 - Incoming director is Barbara Hewitt, coming from Wharton
 - Running around planning events for incoming students (both undergrad and masters)
 - Otherwise in summer/data collection mode
 - Sevile: Can people still join career fair?
 Jamie: Yes, certainly! The split to two days means we still have openings, and we can be flexible with days to an extent.

V. Old Business:

- A. Approval of May 7, 2018 Minutes (Directors)
 - Approved with no changes
- B. Open Action Item Review (J. Olman)
 - None this time
- C. Alumni Weekend Recap 5/12 (J. Brennan)
 - Nice sunny day
 - Not sure what we need to do to get more people
 - George: people ended up corralled into the Quad
 - Jay: How many more would we want?
 - Jim: About 50% more would be good
 - George: We had more people two years ago in the pouring rain
 - Sevile: Definitely encourage people to come over
- D. Senior Design Videos (J. Olman)
 - Currently under review—expect to have an update next meeting

VI. New Business:

- A. Review Proposed new Activities (S. Mannickarottu)
 - Jamie pointed out that career day was incorrect
 - Brad updated—thanks Brad
 - Paul: Is there a barbecue this year?

- Sevile: We'll get to that shortly
- Calendar approved with the career day change
- B. Review Current Activity List (S. Mannickarottu)
 - Sevile: New committee proposal: creating a committee to study the restructuring of committees
 - As you may have noticed if you looked at the activities list, we have a very large number of things we do, but it's difficult to manage all of it. I'm proposing that we create a level of bureaucracy to make it easier for us to grow
 - Farnia: Historically, we've had a number of vice presidents. Does it make sense to have them participate in this?
 - Jay: We should do this
 - Matt: I went to a training that talked about this exact type of thing and I think something like this could lead to more active and productive meetings. I'm very much in favor of looking into this.
 - This would go into effect in for the 2019-2020 year
 - Jim: It helps to wait until the year gets going to see where we need help
 - Matt: We do have years of experience to put into this
 - Carl: Should we have past presidents work on this?
 Matt: past presidents could participate, but I worry they'd be too far backward looking
 - Carl: One thing that'd be helpful is to quantify the interaction between the board and the development office. It's been sort of organic in the past, but we've been lucky
 - George: Do we have a sense of how much we do compared to other schools?

Sevile: we do a lot more

Eric: we have a lot of continuity. Other schools seem to have more people who jump in and fade away after a couple years, but our people stick around

- Brad: Proposing replacing BBQ with masters send-off
 - We've evaluated whether we're getting benefit out of events, whether it's branded, and whether it's worthwhile
 - There's lots of confusion with other BBQs. we're not differentiated with that event (not even in the same day!). Students aren't remembering us from this event!
 - It's really not getting us where we need to be positionally as a brand/organization
 - Thought is to put together a masters send-off; street fair with karaoke, photo booth, dean comes by and takes pictures with people. What if we took the BBQ resources from the beginning of

the year and put it into the send-off, which is the beginning of their lives as alumni?

- Proposal is better timing, more useful for both us and them
- Sevile: I attended and there was a lot of participation and people were having a lot of fun
- Eric: History: started by two alums, ideally to get the students out
 of the lab and socialize with each other. Ended up being mostly
 phds. Started at someone's home, then shifted to campus. It's
 continued to shift over the past several years from phd to masters
 students.
- Matt: I know from the years I participated, it wasn't so much the
 masters students as the phd students who kept coming back over
 several years. I got to know them seeing them each time
- Brad: we have a PhD event around Christmas time
- Eric: How do we not get lost in graduation events?
 Brad: We did this a month before graduation
 Might be close to senior design
- Brad: We'd move the alumni house event to the fall for better student timing

Jeffrey:

- Tech talk for students; invite people to come speak to students
- David: An interesting thing about this is that every department has a ton of talks already. I've noticed it's very difficult to stay connected when you're in other geographic areas, maybe applying this ideas but not on campus. Maybe a silicon valley talk with CA alumni or a DC talk with DC alumni
- Sevile: We seem to have a lot of things going on already for students, so not sure how much room there is for other stuff
- Craig: maybe this could end up being something related to career services?

Jamie: This does sound like something that'd work well with career services. It seems like this could fill a professional gap between the types of discussions we have already with companies and alumni. I could see us having a remote event/webinar style where people dial in and discuss. This could be a combined physical + dial-in thing as well

Sevile: How do you see the board being involved with this?

- (1) Jamie: it'd be helpful to be able to put the EAS name on this at the very least; also brainstorming
- (2) Matt: the hardest part is getting speakers who are interesting

- (3) Jamie: that's something we can do too. I try to stay in touch with community organizations and companies, and I think we could find people there
- (4) Brad: Boon is actually doing a webinar this summer with penn wharton china and alumni panel. I could see this turning into an international thing as well
- Jeffrey: Career night: a panel discussion followed by speed-dating type panel to talk about career paths
 - Jamie: This sounds really interesting. I wonder how we can help aim something like toward traditionally underrepresented areas of study
 - Jay: Do we need a new committee for this?
 - Sevile: Seems like if this would be mostly run by Jamie's office, it'd be good for her to run with it and let us know if she needs any EAS resources
- Jeffrey: Career services outreach
 - Work with career services to organize mock interview days; reach more of an audience by doing video interviews remotely
 - David: Who is this aimed at? How does this differ from what we're already doing?
 - Aditya: My company does this to help augment resumes for industry-specific stuff
 - Sevile: I'm going to pause the discussion here. This sounds very much like what career services does currently and suggestions for that.
 - Jamie: Jeffrey, I'd be happy to take our conversation offline to help make some of these ideas happen
- Jeffrey:
 - Extension of the mentoring program
 - (1) Group of alumni interested in providing advice to senior design teams
 - (2) Sevile: I think this is a great idea; my gut instinct is to tie this with the ESAC group. We can put it out there to the students as something we can offer and let the students decide whether they're interested
- Jeffrey: Job board on website for alumni?
 - Redundant to career services, but we can definitely funnel people to the career services site
- Jeffrey: Formalize bringing alumni back to hear professors give brief talks about their research
 - Eric: We used to have this (Dialogue Days). There used to be a
 full day sponsored by the school, but it was basically this. The
 intent was to get as many alumni from the area back and have a

keynote speaker, but we'd often have professors speak about their research.

- Sevile: We'll need to explore this further
- Wistar tour and panel:
 - Dawn: Wistar is a world-class research institute that happens to be on campus but isn't Penn-affiliated; I went to a really great event there that I think was run by the Princeton Club in Philadelphia; it seems like we could do something similar; I put together a little tour afterward with their communications person. I could see this being related to Back to Penn Engineering or EAS+Penn Club
 - Farnia: I could see the EAS+Penn Club doing this, but it's good to know that they do charge a fee for use of their space
 - David: If there's a committee for this, I can imagine them looking at major locations around the area each year (instead of repeating)
 - Sevile: Any reason it should be either Back to Penn or Penn Club specifically?
 - (1) Jay, well it's technically not Back to Penn Engineering, it's back to adjacent to Penn Engineering, plus the Penn Club events typically have a cost associated
- Sevile: Thanks to everyone for submitting ideas
- For regional alumni events, some good news: after a lot of work, George and Brad have convinced the school to give us *some* funding for four events per year
 - Jason: This is a huge win, thank you very much, This is going to help us out a lot
- C. Fill committee chair and member roles (S. Mannickarottu)

VII. Around the Table (All)

- Ernest: I've worked at Brightwood Career Institute at 30th and Market (I was a teacher there); my boss who leads their electrical program asked if I'd see if anyone's interested in being an EE advisor. They're interested in what can be done to improve the program. It's an opportunity for someone who'd like to volunteer. Contact me if you're interested.
- Farnia: I sit on the board of a nonprofit for a park in Philadelphia. We're redesigning part of the park. If anyone's interested or knows someone who's interested, we're trying to design an interactive mural that'd have some kind of electrical stuff, ways for kids to interact. (Sevile: I know someone at the school of design)

VIII. Adjourn (S. Mannickarottu)

- Thanks again Brad for all this and everything you do in the development office
- Adjourned at 8:17pm

The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2018 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm in Room 221 Singh.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Jay Olman.