

**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, September 17, 2018 6pm, Room 221 Singh**

**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	T	Parth Chopra	
Dawn Becket - VP		Hank Guckes		David Goldstein	
Jim Brennan - VP	X	Lauren Hedvat	T	William McGill	
Paul McLaughlin - VP		Yijie Hu	T	Leah Suttner	
Jay Olman - Sec		Ramsey Kraya		Matthew Serota	
Carl Clyde - Tres		Bernard Jones	X	Jane Fried Sheinfeld	
		Jonathan Lombardo	T	David Solomon	
<b>Past Presidents:</b>		Jeffrey Ng		Heather Stern	T
Brad Abrams		Jason Rifkin		Jeremy Wang	
Eric Benshetler	T	Craig Schorr	T		
Tim Carlsen					
Farnia Fresnel					
Marion Hubing		<b>Associate Directors:</b>		<b>Faculty/Staff:</b>	
Walter Korn		Ernest Churchville	T	George Hain	
Dick Mulford		Jonathan Dunsay	X	Jamie Grant	T
Matt Quale		Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos		Brad Richards	X
Harris Romanoff		Aastha Puri			
		Manasi Puri	X	<b>Guests:</b>	
		Alan Schultz		Scott Levitt	T
		Aditya Sreekumar	T	George Lin	T
				Jason Bethala	X

**I. Call to Order (S. Mannickarottu)**

- Call to order at 6:01pm

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

- Welcome everyone—thanks for using the new technology for joining the meeting (Zoom)
- Normally we have the dean come to one of our meetings in the fall, but he won't this fall because he's teaching a class.
- Penn Club of Philadelphia is hosting an event on Tuesday, September 25th. It's on 254 S. Van Pelt St. Brad will be singing! 150 RSVPs already (normally closer to 50)
  - Brad: All the Penn clubs around the world have a big kickoff event every fall, so this is our local one. If you've already registered, please come. If not, keep an eye out for next year.
- A reminder that the development office has given us a budget for the year to be used for events. We're dividing these up between the various networking events we host locally, in New York, and in Boston.
- Penn Engineering has launched a full-fledged online Masters program (MCIT) for people who are going into computer science, having not studied it before.
- I'd also like to (re)introduce Jason Bethala, who was involved with the Board in the past.
  - I was involved when Tim was president, stopped when I moved, and now I'm back in town and happy to get involved again.

**III. Development Office Report (G. Hain)**

- George had last-minute thing and isn't able to be here this evening.
- The "Power of Penn" fundraising campaign has launched. President Gutmann will be on a multi-city tour for it, starting in October with Boston (10/2), San Francisco (10/9), and Los Angeles (10/11).

**IV. Career Services Report (J. Grant)**

- We were very, very pleased with the outcome of our annual Engineering Career Day. We had over 130 companies in attendance, with 1400 students on the first day and 1600 students on the second. On-campus interviews are coming up.
- We're doing a lot of busy planning with student groups bringing employers to campus as well.
- I had a great conversation with Jeffrey about the Board and Career Services working together more going forward.
  - Aditya: My (new) company came to the career fair, so I was excited about that.

**V. Old Business:**

- A. Approval of July 16, 2018 Minutes (Directors)
  - Approved with no corrections.
- B. Open Action Item Review (J. Olman)

- Nothing to review from the past meeting.
- C. Senior Design Competition (J. Olman)
  - I have reviewed all the videos (both 2017 and 2018 competitions) and they're all suitable for posting on the site.
- D. Regional Engineering Alumni - NYC (7/31) (J. Rifkin)
  - Craig: We had a nice event a month or so ago in midtown. We had 10 or 15 people (a lot of whom we'd not seen at these events before), and they stuck around for a while after Jason and I had to step out.
  - Talking about a next event in January or February. We've started talking how we can effectively use our allotted budget.
  - Thanks for getting the word out.
  - We asked everyone how they heard about the event, and it sounds like they mostly remembered hearing about it in the day or two prior to the event.

## **VI. New Business:**

- A. Insiders' Guide Panel (L. Hedvat)
  - As everyone probably knows, we had a really successful event despite pulling it together a bit last-minute.
  - There was a suggestion to get this done in the fall semester, so Vasiliki and I are looking at this semester and early next semester in order to see what works to maximize attendance.
  - Once we have that date planned, we'll send out to everyone and work on getting speakers booked. We had a good cross section of industries and classes speaking, so we're hoping to have that again.
  - Seville: When you get the dates, please work with Brad and Career Services to make sure we're not conflicting with any other events.
- B. Regional Engineering Alumni - Philly (J. Lombardo)
  - We're excited to have our funding this time—we're grateful to George and Brad for that.
  - We're looking at mid-November or early 2019 for an event. Looking into things like bowling, wine-tasting, axe-throwing, etc.
  - Brad: The fall calendar does get really busy because Homecoming is November 10th and Thanksgiving is early. If we're going to do something in the fall, we should probably get it on the calendar soon.
- C. Homecoming (11/10) (H. Guckes)
  - Brad: This year, Penn Engineering is doing two events:
    - Pennovation tour led by Dean Kumar, which is one of only two sold-out events for Homecoming as of today. There's a lot of demand for that (both for the dean and flying robots). If you've registered, please come—it's going to be great.
    - As usual, we're going to have our reception after the football game (which starts at 1:00, against Harvard). This will take place in the Levine lobby. It really helps us if you do sign up for this.

- If you're interested in going to the football game, I'll be sending out an email where you can request tickets.
- Jay: Do you think there's demand for Pennovation tours *not* being led by the dean?
  - I think Dean Kumar is a great speaker who people like to see, but I'd expect other tours would still be of interest. The 50 spots with the dean filled up really quickly, but I think there's still demand for other things there with a different focus, whether with one of the sponsoring companies or one of the resident companies.
  - This could be a good place to host a speaker event too.
- Seville: I'd encourage everyone to come to the reception. It's always a great event, and there's free food and drinks. Also, if anyone's a BE alum, the bioengineering department also does a reception during Homecoming weekend later in the day.

#### D. Back to Penn Engineering (R. Berkovits)

- One possibility is that there was a sensor-related initiative that was going on. It'd be interesting to look into something like this related to autonomous vehicles and such.
- In the past, I think Alan had the right idea looking at things more freshman-oriented than higher level, but we're asking around.
- Seville: I think for this, something that's tour-like is probably better for this than a speaker.
  - Bernard: How about ENIAC or machine shop for a tour?
  - Manasi: Automation labs are fascinating as well and would be interesting to come check out

#### E. Yearly Lecture Series (R. Berkovits)

- For 10/15, there might be a possibility of a speaker. I need to get some feedback on some potential speakers.
- Lots of good things going on in the engineering school, so lots of possibilities for people to invite.

### VII. Around the Table (All)

- Aditya: Nothing specific other than that I've moved to Boston, so I probably won't be at anymore in-person meetings. George and I are getting together tomorrow though!
- Eric: I'm planning on reaching out to ESAC over the next week to make them aware of the Alumni Society and any services we can help with.
- Ernest: I hope to see you at Homecoming—other than that, nothing from me.
- Brad: Two things that happened in the start of the year that are great from an alumni relations perspective:
  - I brought the campus relations person from Microsoft to campus for a session with students to help them learn how to apply. Four

alumni came from Seattle as well. It was a really great event and everyone appreciated it.

- Thursday, the 20th, we're doing a Penn entrepreneurship event that's being moderated by Vanessa Chan. This is *also* sold out, and we're really excited about getting involved in the Philly entrepreneurship community in addition to just the Penn entrepreneurship community.
- Jay: I happened across an article about Boon Thau Loo in Technical.ly about getting into entrepreneurship from academia. I'll post a link to this on our LinkedIn page.
- Seville: There's a new group called Penn Health Tech that has just formed. They're doing a three-week maker-thon competition for students with a \$10k prize.

**VIII. Adjourn (S. Mannickarottu)**

- Adjourned at 6:51pm

***The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2018 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm in Room 221 Singh.***

Minutes prepared and submitted by Jay Olman.



