

Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA 19104

eas.seas.upenn.edu

Monday, April 8, 2019 6pm, Room 221 Singh

Attendees:

| Executive: | | Directors: | | At-Large Members: | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Dean Vijay Kumar | | Robert Berkovits | | Oladayo Adewole | |
| Seville Mannickarottu - Pres. | X | Lyle Brunhofer | T | Parth Chopra | |
| Dawn Becket - VP | T | Hank Guckes | | David Goldstein | |
| Jim Brennan - VP | X | Lauren Hedvat | T | William McGill | |
| Paul McLaughlin - VP | X | Yijie Hu | T | Leah Suttner | |
| Jay Olman - Sec | X | Ramsey Kraya | | Matthew Serota | |
| Carl Clyde - Tres | | Bernard Jones | X | Jane Fried Sheinfeld | |
| | | Jonathan Lombardo | T | David Solomon | |
| Past Presidents: | | Jeffrey Ng | T | Heather Stern | T |
| Brad Abrams | | Jason Rifkin | T | Jeremy Wang | |
| Eric Benshetler | X | Craig Schorr | | | |
| Tim Carlsen | | | | | |
| Farnia Fresnel | | | | | |
| Marion Hubing | | Associate Directors: | | Faculty/Staff: | |
| Walter Korn | | Ernest Churchville | T | George Hain | |
| Dick Mulford | | Jonathan Dunsay | X | Jamie Grant | X |
| Matt Quale | T | Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos | | Brad Richards | X |
| Harris Romanoff | | Aastha Puri | T | Tiffany Franklin | |
| | | Manasi Puri | T | Guests: | |
| | | Alan Schultz | | Scott Levitt | |
| | | Aditya Sreekumar | | George Lin | |
| | | | | Jason Bethala | |
| | | | | Patricia He | |
| | | | | Dan Garlen | X |
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- I. **Call to Order (S. Mannickarottu)**
 - Call to order at 6:02pm.
- II. **President's Welcome & Remarks (S. Mannickarottu)**
 - Welcome folks on this beautiful, beautiful day for a change.
 - I wanted to preempt Jim and talk about the other award winners:
 - S. Reid Warren Jr. Award: Igor Bargatin
 - E. Stuart Eichert Jr. Award: Robert Brosnan and Priya Bhirgoo
- III. **Development Office Report (G. Hain)**
 - Brad: George isn't able to make it tonight, but I want to give a highlight in case you haven't seen the recent news: Roy Vagelos has given the school \$50m for a new energy research building.
 - This will house the VIPER program and other SEAS/College collaborations.
 - This is a big gift!
- IV. **Career Services Report (J. Grant)**
 - Paul will address the mentoring and externship programs and Lauren will discuss the Insider's Guide Panel.
 - Career Services is looking ahead; working with an outside consultant to build for the future.
- V. **Nominations Committee (M. Quale)**
 - I apologies for not being able to be there in person, which I would've much preferred
 - The Nominations Committee is made up of past presidents of the board to deliberate about board leadership going forward.
 - The board slate is being proposed this month and we'll vote on it at the next meeting.
 - We're excited to nominate Jay Olman as the next president. He brings a different sort of skill set to the role, with his entrepreneurship experience. Entrepreneurship is an area that we know lots of students and alumni hold near and dear.
 - Definitely reach out to me with any questions.
 - Seville: The nominations committee is independent of the current board, so reach out to Matt with questions, not me.
- VI. **Old Business:**
 - A. Approval of March 4, 2019 Minutes (Directors)
 - Jay already fixed the year in the previous previous-minutes approval item.
 - B. Open Action Item Review (J. Olman)
 - Updated Regional Engineering Alumni (Philly) from the January meeting minutes to Jon from Jason.
 - C. Regional Engineering Alumni - NYC - 3/19 (J. Rifkin)
 - We had about 40 folks come to our event a couple weeks ago.
 - Held at a Manhattan second-floor beer garden.

- We had food ready in advance. It was great to be able to make use of the funds provided by the development office—thanks again Brad.
- Our entire area was filled up.
- I got all the names and emails of everyone who RSVPed in advance (about 70), though we definitely had some last minute change in plans.
- Heather: I think this was the most successful event to date. I think sending out our invite further into the suburbs is definitely the way to go. The free food helps too.
- Seville: This is really great! I don't think we've had a bigger showing.
- Jon Dunsay: So we can learn for the Philly event, Brad, did you send the email invitations?
 - Brad: I did, yes. We've been testing and testing with these New York events and it's great to see it worked this time.
 - We also heard feedback that the invite appeared more school-official and formal.
 - The system wasn't great a few years ago, but it's recently had an upgrade.
 - Seville: We also posted on LinkedIn. We can't really know whether that helped, but it's good to show that there's stuff going on.

D. Patent Presentation - 3/20 (J. Lombardo)

- We had the patent forum on March 20th.
- I think the content was good and we had a great panel.
- Some repeat speakers and some new—some in-house representation, some from firms, some from the law school.
- Lots of good questions.
- On the downside, the attendance was a lot lower than in the past—we had about 15 this year compared to 40 or so in the past.
- We've done some debriefing about lessons learned and how to improve for next time.
- Seville: Also, Tim was the moderator again this year. He did a great job.
 - As I think about it, the school is really pushing entrepreneurship at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. It seems like a patent presentation would be well-attended and should have a lot of interest from students. I hear this a lot.

E. Yarnall Award - 3/25 (J. Brennan)

- This year was a little different than other years.
- We had the pleasure of sitting with all the students receiving awards and they're brilliant and there were tons of them!
- Seville: It went really well. Professor Nemirovsky pointed out that the award wasn't given for a few years, so we should look into that.

F. Insider's Guide Panel - 4/4 (L. Hedvat)

- Last week we had our second annual Insider's Guide Panel with Career Services.

- Wide age range of panelists.
- We had a great turnout.
- Career Services was kind enough to order pizza for the group, which I imagine helped with the draw.
- We actually had to cut off the discussion early so that people could go out and enjoy the refreshments.
- Jamie: I've recently received a budget for providing pizza for things like this, so I look forward to being able to do the same for other events like this in the future.

G. Mentoring & Externship Program (P. McLaughlin)

- This is the mentoring report tonight—we'll talk about the externship program next month.
- In the 2018 program, there were 44 pairs.
- Again, we continue to see more mentor volunteers than mentees.
- We see that so far, 65 students have been attending the information sessions. We still do have more mentor volunteers, so we're in good shape there.
- We had a decent response rate for our student evaluations and they reinforced that they had a positive experience.
- [Report from Career Services attached.]
- Seville: Do you have a sense of what careers the mentors tended to represent?
 - Paul: We don't have that information available now.
 - Jamie: I think we can pull that data—I'll check with Kevin. Also, the link to volunteer is active year-round, so anyone can sign up anytime.
- Paul: Kevin and Tiffany do a lot of the heavy lifting, so thanks very much to them.

VII. New Business:

A. Regional Engineering Alumni - Philly - 4/11 (J. Lombardo)

- The event is this Thursday, April 11th at the Post, which is a new venue near 30th St. Station.
- It's going to be similar to the NYC event where we'll have food provided.
- 44 RSVPs as of this morning.
- Seville: Everyone who's able to make it should join!
- Brad: We'll use the official system for sending out invites here too. I think we can use it to print out name tags, which is easy to do with the new setup.

B. Masters Farewell & Sendoff - 4/12 (S. Mannickarottu)

- This is the third year we're doing this. It's really fun.
- There'll be karaoke, a bar, food, etc. We want to make sure to say farewell so our Masters students can leave with a good feeling.
- If you're around, you should come by Levine lobby from 3-4:30.

- As a reminder, this event has replaced the barbecue.
- We want to make sure there's no lag from being a great student to being a great alum.

C. Senior Design Competition - 5/3 (J. Olman)

- Senior Design is May 3rd, which is three weeks from this Friday!
- Eric on board for calligraphy.
- Lyle will be managing the day-of scoring again.
- To handle potential questions from departments rather than judges:
 - Tell everyone to expect questions from judges only (students, departments, judges)
 - Not sure if there's more we can or should do to enforce, but we should keep an eye out
- Brad: As of now, there aren't any departments experiencing difficulty with our rules or process, so it looks like we'll have full participation as always.

D. Alumni Weekend - 5/18 (H. Guckes)

- Seville: Hank isn't here today, but I can tell you: the tent will open at noon.
- Dr. Gutmann will come by at 1pm on the dot, so we should make sure to have a good showing while she's there.
- Brad: We'd love a big turnout at the tent.

VIII. Around the Table (All)

- Dan Garlen: EMTM 2012. I came back a few decades later!
 - Brad: Dan joined us for the alumni mixer event.
- Dawn: I have officially relocated to New York this year—my husband got a great job offer up here. It's been a busy 2019 to say the least, but I'm trying to stay involved as much as I can and I'm glad I was able to help build some momentum before moving. I'm excited to still work on new things going forward.
- Aastha: Manasi and I would love to sign up for judging Senior Design.
- Brad: I'll plug another event coming up about bringing engineering technology to market. This is an entrepreneurship panel on April 23rd in Berger Auditorium from 6:30-7:30. This will be open to all engineers and Wharton students.
 - It occurred to me: should we open things like the patent presentation to alumni as well as students? We could do some cross-marketing with alumni where it makes sense.
 - Jamie: We can definitely reach out to alumni with our Handshake system.
- Eric: I want to thank Matt for chairing the Nominations Committee for the past few years. It's his last year of chairing it—thank you for doing a great job.
- Seville: If you look at the agenda again, you'll see all the events that we've been doing, which is great. Thank you Brad and Jamie so much for

helping facilitate—I hope we're not burdening you! Thank you to the board as well.

IX. Adjourn (S. Mannickarottu)

- Adjourned at 7:05pm

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2019 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm in Room 221 Singh.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Jay Olman.