Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors  
*University of Pennsylvania*

*Philadelphia, PA 19104*

*eas.seas.upenn.edu*

**Monday, May 11, 2020 6pm, Virtual Only**

### Attendees:

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Executive:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Directors:</strong></th>
<th><strong>At-Large Members:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Dean Vijay Kumar</td>
<td>Dawn Becket</td>
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<td>Jay Olman - Pres.</td>
<td>Jim Brennan</td>
<td>T Ed Chan</td>
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<td>Carl Clyde - VP</td>
<td>Lyle Brunhofer</td>
<td>T Parth Chopra</td>
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<td>Lauren Hedvat - VP</td>
<td>Jonathan Dunsay</td>
<td>T Lamis Elsawah</td>
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<td>Jonathan Lombardo - VP</td>
<td>Hank Guckes</td>
<td>Qi Fang</td>
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<td>Bernard Jones – Sec.</td>
<td>Yijie Hu</td>
<td>T David Goldstein</td>
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<td>Robert Berkovits – Tres.</td>
<td>Ramsey Kraya</td>
<td>Patricia He</td>
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<td>Paul McLaughlin</td>
<td>T Scott Levitt</td>
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<td><strong>Past Presidents:</strong></td>
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<td>Jeffrey Ng</td>
<td>T George Lin</td>
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<td>Brad Abrams</td>
<td>Jason Rifkin</td>
<td>T William McGill</td>
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<td>Eric Benshetler</td>
<td>Craig Schorr</td>
<td>T Kush Mehta</td>
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<td>Tim Carlsen</td>
<td>Heather Stern</td>
<td>Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos</td>
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<td>Farnia Fresnel</td>
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<td>Aastha Puri</td>
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<td>Marion Hubing</td>
<td>T <strong>Associate Directors:</strong></td>
<td>Manasi Puri</td>
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<td>Walter Korn</td>
<td>Ernest Churchville</td>
<td>Aditya Sreekumar</td>
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<td>Matt Quale</td>
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<td>Ryan Wade</td>
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<td>Harris Romanoff</td>
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<td>Stan Warchaizer</td>
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<td>Sevile Mannickarottu</td>
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<th><strong>Faculty/Staff:</strong></th>
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<td>Jamie Grant</td>
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<td>George Hain</td>
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<td>Brad Richards</td>
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<th><strong>Guests:</strong></th>
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<td>Wendy Sardinsky</td>
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I. Call to Order (J. Olman)
   ■ Called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm
   ■ Never had to cancel a meeting before

II. Dean’s Remarks (V. Kumar)
   ■ Currently in 8th week of self isolation
   ■ Slides were presented to provide a sense of what school experienced
     ● It’s unprecedented to cancel Quaker Day
       (1) Will not use this term again…”unprecedented”
     ● March 1st first case on staff was reported
     ● This summer semester, all teaching will be remote
       (1) Spring offered pass/fail grading for students
       (2) Summer will be graded
       (3) Research is almost entirely shut down
       (4) Very few people have access to building
       (5) Penn Health Tech is a new organization that interfaces between engineering and medicine
         (a) Produced 10,000 face shields in weeks
         (b) 3D printed ventilators
         (c) Developing new ventilator innovations
         (d) Showed chart from American Psychiatric association – impact on our community
         (e) Discussed impacts on our Students
     ● Possible vaccines being created at Wistar Institute
     ● Dean of Medical School, Dean Jameson – there is no silver bullet for COVID-19, but may be many smaller bullets
       (1) We should keep in mind that there is still no vaccine for AIDS, but we know how to aggressively treat it
     ● Austerity measures:
       (1) Hiring freezes
       (2) No raises
       (3) Reduction in spending
       (4) Physical distancing in labs
     ● When will UPenn’s campus reopen?
       (1) It’s not clear yet, perhaps Sept 1st.
       (2) By June 1st we will have instructional/teaching plans in place
       (3) Hybrid, in-class and remote instruction
       (4) Some form of social distancing
       (5) PPE/sanitization will be available everywhere
       (6) The policy will be - don’t be on campus if you don’t want to be/need to be
       (7) Still determining how to handle class room space
(a) Hanimary Hall has a capacity of 200+, but only 30 students can be accommodated with social distancing measures
(b) UPenn is working to determine how to use physical space in safest way possible to satisfy all restrictions

- How should labs be re-opened
  1. PPE dependent
  2. Access limitations
  3. Groups to support those who feel pressure to return
- Discussed Strength/Weakness Opportunity Threat Analysis
  1. Institution Strengths
    a. Experience online teaching
    b. Amazing team of institutional loyalty
  2. Weakness
    a. Students’ perceptions of risk may lower in-person attendance
    b. Inadequate computing infrastructure and cloud support for the virtualization for education
  3. Opportunities
    a. Bring new talent to the school
    b. Think “online learning”, not “remote teaching”
  4. Threats
    a. Government Fiat: many actions taken by US Government and other agencies are affecting the intake of students and research
    b. Impact on funding

  - Jay - Are students starting to see deferred admission to next year?
    - Not yet, we don’t know the future, but students’ decisions to delay a four year education, which can impact a lifetime, hasn’t happened yet
  - Patricia – how will this impact affordability?
    - 50% of student are on financial aid, we don’t know the impact yet
  - Kush – will testing be available? Is there an alternative to nasal process?
    a. Penn medicine is looking into saliva based testing
    b. Antibody tests are being scaled up at UPenn medicine
    c. Targeting enzymes and new drugs
  - Jonathan Dunsay – there are many challenges associated with self-monitoring, how will this work? (watch-dog)
    a. Must have representation by everyone – students, staff, etc.
    b. Graduated inequality needs to be prevented and community must be preserved
  - School is preventing layoffs
  - Ryan wade – have you experienced changes in Government funding?
Current austerity cuts are unrelated to COVID

(1) Big difference in 2008, that crisis turned out positive because there was a positive emphasis placed on institutions at that time

- Lamis – regarding international student/alumni; unlike for domestic students who can return, what is being done to bridge/reconnect students who can’t return
- Don’t know – biggest difference is in labs, Sevile is on committee
- Biological/physical sciences are impacted the most, computer science is impacted the least

- Berkovits – are slides going to be available? What type of masks will be available?
  (1) UPenn recommends surgical masks, not M95
  (2) No gloves, but Clorox wipes, etc.
  (3) Combination of techniques and changing behaviors at desks
  (4) Procuring PPE is an issue

- Bernard - is augmented reality being explored for use in labs?
  (1) Not used in labs yet
    (a) Labs will have to be restructured
    (b) Tech not there yet
  (2) It’s being used in Telemedicine
    (a) For example, iPads on wheels with keyboard
  (3) Would VR be effective? It may not be as effective as it might seem
  (4) Great way to teach

III. President’s Welcome & Remarks (J. Olman)
- No additional comments

IV. Development Office Report (G. Hain)
- Fiscal year ends 30 June – fund raising goal exceeded
  - Naming gift for new data science building from Harland
  - Over 80% of goal met for new building
    (1) Decision will be made in next few months whether to add two more floors
    (2) Great year in annual giving
      (a) Goal exceeded
      (b) Moratorium on giving ended a week ago
    (3) Number of donors was ahead, but has fallen behind again
    (4) Bernard – will more floors allow for increased social distancing?
      (a) Will come down to cost in the end
(5) Berkovits – can decision be delayed a year or two?
   (a) University may be slowing down process

V. Career Services Report (J. Grant)
   ■ Online career service delivery has transitioned very well
   ■ Some students have access issues, but issues are being worked
   ■ [https://github.com/gcreddy42/hiring2020/](https://github.com/gcreddy42/hiring2020/) - crowd sourced website with updates on statuses from companies/students
   ■ Employers being worked with closely
   ■ Moving to more virtual events
   ■ Largest challenge ahead – fall recruiting events
     ● Large event in September
     ● Solutions are being investigated
     ● Transitioning to virtual events may help reduce cost
   ■ Jay – has a successful virtual career fair ever been done?
     ● Jamie, yes it has been done
     ● Matt – yes, traveling/replication of one-on-one talking has been replicated well
     (1) Explore what types of tools/techniques are being used that are successful
     ● Jamie – Handshake is a new vendor being explored
     (1) Video chat rooms, not just text
   ■ Campus is missed, Locust Walk is lovely during Spring

VI. Nominations Committee (S. Mannickarottu)
   ■ Proposed board for next year
   ■ List made by past presidents
   ■ Same Executive Board
   ■ Kush added to Directors
   ■ Wade and Fang added as Associate Directors
   ■ Many thumbs up with motion to approve
   ■ New board is approved

VII. Old Business:
   a) March 2, 2020 Minutes approved (Directors)
      ■ Eric Benshelter corrections
         ● Dr Bordogna
         ● Allan Shultz
      ■ Minutes approved
   b) Open Action Item Review (B. Jones)
VIII. New Business:

a) Updates - not on agenda

- Brad:
  - Alumni weekend info was sent out
  - Virtual graduation
  - Penn website will have virtual celebration
    1) Speakers
    2) Virtual parade of classes
  - Stay tuned

- Jay – Sevile, Senior Design Competition
  - In some departments, work had been completed
  - Other departments cancelled competition
  - Many students were unhappy
    1) Jay – why were they unhappy if they didn’t have to do that work?
    2) Bioengineering Department had an incentive if you participated you wouldn’t have to do an 80 page final report
    3) Some students thought they would do well

b) COVID-19 Era Brainstorm (J. Olman)

- Where do things stand now?
  - We can move forward on some new items/topics
  - Narrow things down to 3 areas:
    1) Job seekers – opportunities for us to help
    2) Making working from home work for you
    3) Existential issues – health, lose of income, international students (thesis)

- Most video participants at EASB meeting ever (total)

c) Reflecting on This Year and Looking Ahead to Next (J. Olman)

- How this past year went within this group and look ahead to next year…plan for planning meeting
- Will send out survey in next two weeks – what can Jay be doing better to make this situation work?
- Assume next planning meeting will be on Zoom
- Sevile – great to see so many people, this is really working
IX. Around the Table (All)

- Sevile – Hank Guckes passed away in March
  - George – endowed a scholarship in his name
    - (1) https://www.dellafh.com/obituary/HenryHank-Guckes
  - Commencement – first in history that has not happened – even during Spanish flu
- Bob – if we can’t meet in fall, we’ll do all planning in July; will send out ideas
  - Went to same church with Hank, he will let his classmates know
- Jeff – have pics from past years to post
- Jamie – willing to post any hiring opportunities
  - Spoke with Rosette, she’s doing well
- Bernard – is a virtual event being considered for a happy hour or something with speakers?
  - Bob – we can discuss in July regarding speakers
- Dunsay – will Dean Vijay Kumar’s presentation be made available? Was it confidential?
  - George will find out…much of the info was public (Action Item)
- Kush – thanks for nomination
  - Moving to Kenya to start business in Kenya
- Marion – what are future dates?
  - Jay - Planning in 20 July
  - No schedule yet for 2020/2021 year
- Wendy – coming together is a force multiplier
  - Will relay connection on business
- Patricia He – Zoom meeting worked really well

X. Adjourn (J. Olman) – at 7:34pm

The next meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2020 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm Virtual Only

Minutes prepared by Bernard Jones.