

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:

| Executive: | | Directors: | | At-Large Members: | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Dean Vijay Kumar | T | Dawn Becket | T | Jason Bethala | |
| Jay Olman - Pres. | T | Jim Brennan | T | Ed Chan | |
| Carl Clyde - VP | T | Lyle Brunhofer | T | Parth Chopra | |
| Lauren Hedvat - VP | T | Jonathan Dunsay | T | Lamis Elsayah | T |
| Jonathan Lombardo - VP | | Hank Guckes | | Qi Fang | T |
| Bernard Jones – Sec. | T | Yijie Hu | T | David Goldstein | T |
| Robert Berkovits – Tres. | T | Ramsey Kraya | | Patricia He | T |
| | | Paul McLaughlin | T | Scott Levitt | |
| | | Jeffrey Ng | T | George Lin | |
| Brad Abrams | | Jason Rifkin | T | William McGill | |
| Eric Benshetler | T | Craig Schorr | T | Kush Mehta | T |
| Tim Carlsen | | Heather Stern | | Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos | |
| Farnia Fresnel | | | | Aastha Puri | |
| Marion Hubing | T | Associate Directors: | | Manasi Puri | |
| Walter Korn | | Ernest Churchville | | Aditya Sreekumar | |
| Matt Quale | T | | | Ryan Wade | T |
| Harris Romanoff | | | | Stan Warchaizer | T |
| Sevile Mannickarottu | T | | | | |
| | | | | Faculty/Staff: | |
| | | | | Jamie Grant | T |
| | | | | George Hain | T |
| | | | | Brad Richards | T |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | Guests: | |
| | | | | Wendy Sardinsky | T |
| | | | | | |

X=In-person T=Telephone V=Virtual

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?
 - Penn medicine is looking into saliva based testing
 - Antibody tests are being scaled up at UPenn medicine
 - Targeting enzymes and new drugs
- Jonathan Dunsay – there are many challenges associated with self-monitoring, how will this work? (watch-dog)
 - Must have representation by everyone – students, staff, etc.
 - 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, Seville 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/> - 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)

- One correction for Jim - done

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 – Seville, 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

- Seville – great to see so many people, this is really working

IX. Around the Table (All)

- Seville – 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.