

Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104
eas.seas.upenn.edu

Monday, September 14, 2020 6pm, Virtual Only

Attendees:

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

X=In-person T=Telephone V=Virtual

I. Call to Order (J. Olman)

- Called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

II. President's Welcome & Remarks (J. Olman)

- Thanks for joining this evening
- It's easier to join on video, though not preferred over in-person
- Looking forward to talking about how we will work with one another

III. Development Office Report (G. Hain)

- Development Update
 - Surpassed annual fundraising goal
 - Approaching fundraising goal for new Data Science Center
 - Tentatively approved for original 4-floor plan...wanting 6 floors
 - Will have Cyber Security Department
 - Annual giving calls are starting
 - (1) Did callers ask to increase gifts? Please provide feedback...
- Feedback needed
 - Virtual Events
 - No more in-person events over next few months at least
 - (1) What topics should we discuss?
 - (2) What timeframe is best and when during the course of the week?
 - Jay – Did you see survey about virtual events?
 - (1) 13 folks confirmed they are interested
 - (2) Amrita Singh – new member
 - (a) Bio Tech and cert. in engineering entrepreneurship
 - Lamis – 1hr max and during the week
 - (1) Interesting speakers, UPenn alumni
 - (2) Can we do small in-person events?
 - (a) George - UPenn would not sanction it
 - Wade – 1hr with three speakers talking 20 minutes each
 - Brennan – after an hour attention goes away
 - (1) Good that we can expand our reach virtually
 - George – Dean Vijay Kumar is interested in doing many events
 - (1) Might do something timed for India and China to get better attendance
 - (2) Possible smaller events where people can meet each other
 - Brad – NY folks on call have done regional events
 - (1) Should we be doing regional events, or doesn't it matter anymore in a virtual world?
 - Rifkin – people come for the networking component, which is non-zoom, but a face-to-face aspect

(1) Unless it's a speaker series, it might not be beneficial to host specific regional event

- Bob – I sent some topics

(1) Working up a survey on topics of three 20min speakers

- Seville – Gather town app is an interesting way to network virtually that is different Zoom

IV. Career Services Report (J. Grant) – Not on call

V. Old Business:

a. Approval of July 20, 2020 Minutes Directors

- a. Approved

b. Open Action Item Review (B. Jones)

- None

c. Committee Update

- a. 30 people responded to survey
 - i. Please complete form or feel free to update responses
- b. Need to determine who wants to lead and which will have subcommittees
 - i. We should wrap this up this week
- c. Any Director on the Board is required to participate in at least one committee

VI. New Business:

a. Ongoing QuakerNet Update (B. Richards)

- a. Revisions to QuakerNet - a new beneficial development
 - i. www.quakernet.alumni.upenn.edu
 - ii. Online directory of alumni, less flexible than LinkedIn
 - iii. University will be upgrading QuakerNet
 - 1. More flexibility to connect and a new platform for engaging points
 - 2. In demo phase currently

b. Jay – it's good to help us learn better ways to reach out to other people

c. Seville – in the past, folks wouldn't update info...is there anything planned to help resolve that dated information issue

- i. Brad – Yes, there will be an onboarding process to update data and engage people

b. Future Meeting Format and Materials (J. Olman)

- a. In the past, meetings cover old business and discuss plans for expected business
 - i. My hope is to answer questions we don't know the answer to yet; this will be a part of future agendas

- ii. If there's anything you want to share with the group, time will be made for that as well

c. Ease of Communication Outside of Meetings (J. Olman)

a. Jay – "I'm a disorganized person"

- i. Often in a mad scramble before meetings to catch up...it happens to everyone

ii. Getting started seems to require a lot of momentum

- 1. In a work setting it's less of a problem because of more dynamic small message exchanges that get the ball rolling

2. Some committees have been silent

- 3. There needs to be a way to get discussions going and for things to happen. i.e. a democratic approach

- a. What types of ideas will help increase frequency and ease communication between meetings?

- b. Lamis – Slack is a good project management piece of sw

- i. Asana is another good one to keep people accountable

- c. Wade – a swift kick in the butt email from Seville can also help

- d. Kush – Slack is used for more than committees, but also for sharing and internships

- e. Quale – we have many platforms, so let's not forget about good old email...

4. Jay – am I the only one that does this

- a. Anything that helps folks fit things in is good...it's a problem that's always been there

- b. Seville – some groups using Slack didn't have enough participation

- c. Jay – Need discussion forum that facilitates smaller forms of discussion

- i. Could post agenda there

- ii. Can have different channels for committees and initiatives

- iii. Send private messages

- d. Me – do any of these communication platforms require more bandwidth?

- i. Jay - Not sure...

- 1. Don't expect to replace zoom for meetings

- 2. Only for messaging and discussion
- e. Kush – Experienced no bandwidth issues with Zoom or Slack
- f. Brennan – need it to be secure and prevent crashing by outsiders
- g. Jay – we should give Slack a try
 - i. committee chairs tend to be bottle necks, so perhaps this will help make more progress

VII. VII. Around the Table All

- a) Brad – great to see everyone and excited to discuss fall
- b) Jim – good opportunity and happy to have new camera to participate
- c) Amrita – thanks for having me and looking forward
- d) Bernard - Post meeting happy hour drink?
 - Zoom room is dedicated to meeting, so feel free to stay on
- e) Bob – IEEE conflicts sometime
 - We want committees and speakers by October?
- f) Jeffrey – Slack is great

VIII. Adjourn (J. Olman) – at 7:00pm

The next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2020 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Virtual Only

Minutes prepared by Bernard Jones.