

**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, October 12, 2020 6pm, Virtual Only**

**Attendees:**

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

X=In-person T=Telephone V=Virtual

**I. Call to Order (J. Olman)**

- Called the meeting to order at 6:06pm

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

- Thanks everyone for joining this evening
- Sandeep Bhat - joining for first time – Bioengineering, living in Princeton, NJ
- Shira Rieke - joining for first time – Also bioengineering, class of 2018, living in NYC
  - Got involved via Kush

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

- Perhaps you heard press release stating that Penn will open up more in Spring
  - That is subject to change; there may be 15-20% more students on campus with a focus on students in labs
- COVID-19 testing on campus
  - Approximately 5 - 12 positive tests out of 1500 per week
    - (1) This is quite low
  - Bob B. - Is it Penn's policy to retest?
    - (1) Unknown
  - Testing is not considered highly accurate
  - Several initiatives Penn Med is working on, including saliva-based tests
  - Dogs also being used for sniff testing
- Fund raising still heavily focused on new Data Science Building
  - Dean Vijay Kumar wants it to be six stories, but it will at least be four stories
  - Located at 34<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut St.
- Annual giving started off slowly, but currently back to almost where we were this time last year
- February Challenge will be based on the number of donors, not dollar amount
  - Announcement will come before Feb, with a matching gift
  - Committee members will be asked to donate on February 1

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

**V. Old Business:**

- a) Approval of September 14, 2020 Minutes (Directors)
  - Minutes Approved
- b) Open Action Item Review (B. Jones)
  - No open Action Items
- c) Committee Update (J. Olman)

- Been slowly but surely getting things together and working on getting chairs/leads setup
- Members are urged to use Slack to stay in the loop

## VI. New Business:

### a) SF Bay Area Event (B. Richards)

- Virtual events; each fall supported by Brad, George, and Dean Vijay Kumar
  - Bay Area Young Alumni event will take place on Thursday Oct. 29th
    - (1) Michael Kerns will be provide “TED Talk” like discussion

### b) Homecoming Virtual Town(e) Hall Event (B. Richards)

- The week of 11 November
- Virtual Homecoming this year
  - University wide events Mon – Sat
    - (1) Dean Vijay Kumar and Senior Associated Dean Dave Meaney will conduct Town(e) Hall style event
  - Open to everyone at 5pm on Wednesday 11 November
  - Jay - Is there a limit to how many people can attend?
    - (1) No – Penn is using the top tier Zoom product
  - Bob – no buffet this year ☺
  - Jay - Why aren't other schools having events with their Deans during homecoming?
    - (1) Brad - Some other schools have already conducted Dean events

### c) Communication/Slack Update (J. Olman)

- Thanks to all who have joined Slack
- There are some that have had difficulty joining
  - Jay - I can invite folks and am happy to send invites
  - Email will still be the official place to receive important notices, such as meeting announcements.
- Bob – will a list of different committees be available on Slack?
  - Jay - Yes, anyone can join the different channels
- A private channel has been made for Yarnall Award
- Sandeep – is Penn moving exclusively to Slack?
  - No indication at this time

**VII. VII. Around the Table All**

- a) George – thanks to everyone and new members for attending
- b) Matt – tip: f you hold spacebar down, Zoom unmutes
- c) Jay – regarding post meeting discussions, this meeting’s Zoom link is available for this meeting specifically
- d) Lauren – I will donate soon, save the callers
- e) Jim – found lengthy presentations that explains Slack, which is better than short ones
- f) Paul – for those who are eligible, please vote!
- g) Bob – checked google on science behind COVID research...getting more detailed characterizing aerosols with and without masks
  - What are good mathematical models for pandemic?
  - Dr. Paul O. is at Penn Med, Children’s Hospital
- h) Sandeep – glad to be here
- i) David – I’ve already voted and looking forward to when we can get back into the same room together for meetings
- j) Eric – finally retired; can be involved with Engineering Alumni again
  - Teaching online is still taking up a large amount of time for Penn State

**VIII. Adjourn (J. Olman) – at 7:00pm**

***The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2020 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Virtual Only***

Minutes prepared by Bernard Jones.