

**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, November 9, 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	V	Parth Chopra	
Lauren Hedvat - VP	V	Jonathan Dunsay	V	Lamis Elsayah	V
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		William McGill	
Brad Abrams		Jason Rifkin		Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos	
Eric Benshetler		Craig Schorr		Aastha Puri	
Tim Carlsen		Heather Stern		Manasi Puri	
Farnia Fresnel				Amrita Singh	V
Marion Hubing	V	<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	V
Sevile Mannickarottu	V			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)**

- a) Called the meeting to order at 6:04pm

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

- a) Thanks everyone for being here; I can't believe it's November already

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

- a) Things going surprisingly well despite COVID
  - Corporate giving is leading the way and ahead of last years pace
  - Annual giving is just a little behind
- b) Students will be on campus, but most will be online
  - Students will need to be petitioned to take labs
- c) Early decision applications have increased since last year – tougher to get in
- d) Brad reporting out on events:
  - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of October Michael Kerns and Dean Vijay Kumar did virtual event for bay area
    - It was an excellent program, but not as well attended as expected
  - Link to Deans Town(e) Hall on 11/11 at 5pm
    - <https://www.alumni.upenn.edu/pennengineeringtownhall>
    - Dean Vijay Kumar and Associate Dean David Meaney
    - Please register and attend the start even if you can't stay for entire time
    - 350 have signed-up already
  - Jay – Dean Vijay Kumar would have liked better turn out
    - We definitely want to provide Penn Engineering content; lower turn out won't discourage future events

**IV. Career Services Report (J. Grant)**

- It's been a busy fall; sorry for missing past two meetings
- Appointment for CJ Taylor in SEAS for diversity
- Engineering career fairs went well
  - Virtual Hand Career Fairs were new, but they were successful
  - STEM participation has increased and had most employers involved at all fall events
- Still collecting data for Class of 2020
- Matt – Can send article that discusses interesting ways to drive engagement, which are moving towards online implementations

**V. Old Business:**

- a) Approval of October 12, 2020 Minutes (Directors)
  - Minutes for this meeting and prior meeting will be approved at next meeting
- b) Open Action Item Review (B. Jones)
  - No open Action Items

**VI. New Business:**

- a) Mentoring and Externships (P. McLaughlin/J. Grant)
  - Met to discuss how to handle this topic
    - We had Tiffany's help in past years, but she's moving on
  - Mentoring is often done by phone, so this will proceed on present course
    - Mentees will be matched with Mentors going forward, as was done in the past
  - Externships often involve Alumni bringing Sophomores and Juniors to place of employment
    - Can't do this in current COVID environment
    - So, we will align, as other schools are doing, and involve visits at end of term
      - (1) This will also be opened to Freshmen
    - Communications to Externships hasn't been completed, but are in progress with a meeting scheduled
    - Externships won't be viewed as recruiting, but rather have more of a positive learning focus
      - (1) Jay – this is positive and allows participants the choice to say yes
    - Alumni enjoy sharing the different aspects of their jobs with the students
  - George – Do you have Penn Engineering in your will?
- b) Homecoming Virtual Town(e) Hall Event (11/11) (B. Richards)
  - Excited to rollout <https://mypenn.upenn.edu/>
    - Going to replace QuakerNet and WhartonConnect for all students and alumni
    - New site will provide better access to resources
    - Jay – Do pages for everyone already exist?
      - (1) Yes, everyone selects the type of School/Experience they want. i.e. Engineering, Libraries, Classes, etc.
    - Jay – Is there going to be a big announcement?
      - (1) Emails will go out this week to encourage everyone to join
        - (a) Everyone will need a Penn Key to join

- Paul – I already used it, works well
  - Jamie – Just noted a type-o on main welcome page
- c) DEI Update (J. Olman)
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion update
    - Met last week to discuss what this initiative should include/entail
    - Determined there is a lot that can be done:
      - (1) Refresh relationship with AWE
      - (2) NSBE and SHPE – connect better out of DEI Office
      - (3) Work more with student groups that have Penn staff instead of only student run groups
      - (4) There is room to work this mentality into most events
      - (5) Will meet again in coming weeks

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

- a) Seville – Regarding DEI, engineering is looking to highlight Alumni are diverse, asked by communication group to send out a form to recognize diverse alumni around campus
- b) Brad – Please sign-up for Engineering Town(e) Hall tonight
- c) Matt – I just signed up for Town(e) Hall
  - Book club at office, recommended read – I will send out info about helpful book
  - Jay – book club for EAS is a good idea
- d) Dawn – Focus on starting point, Women in Engineering
- e) Sandeep – Central NJ Club – MyPenn will help connect alumni in region
- f) Bob – Will we get on Share/Slack for DEI
- g) Earnest – Starting today, I will start working in Springfield Montgomery County as a Substitute Math Teacher for Elementary and Middle schools

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

***The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2021 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Virtual Only***

Minutes prepared by Bernard Jones.