## Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors

*University of Pennsylvania*

*Philadelphia, PA 19104*

*eas.seas.upenn.edu*

Monday, January 11, 2021, 6pm, Virtual Only

### Attendees:

<table>
<thead>
<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>
<td>V Jason Bethala</td>
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<td>Associate Dean David Meaney</td>
<td>Jim Brennan</td>
<td>V Ed Chan</td>
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<td>Jay Olman - Pres.</td>
<td>V Lyle Brunhofer</td>
<td>V Parth Chopra</td>
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<td>Carl Clyde - VP</td>
<td>Jonathan Dunsay</td>
<td>Lamis Elsawah V</td>
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<td>Lauren Hedvat - VP</td>
<td>V Yijie Hu</td>
<td>V David Goldstein</td>
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<td>Jonathan Lombardo - VP</td>
<td>V Ramsey Kraya</td>
<td>V Patricia He</td>
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<td>Bernard Jones – Sec.</td>
<td>V Paul McLaughlin</td>
<td>V Scott Levitt</td>
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<td>Robert Berkovits – Tres.</td>
<td>V Kush Mehta</td>
<td>George Lin</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Ng</td>
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<td>V William McGill</td>
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<td><strong>Past Presidents:</strong></td>
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<td>Jason Rifkin</td>
<td>V Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos</td>
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<td>Brad Abrams</td>
<td>Craig Schorr</td>
<td>Aastha Puri</td>
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<td>Eric Benshetler</td>
<td>Heather Stern</td>
<td>Manasi Puri V</td>
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<td>Tim Carlsten</td>
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<td>Amrita Singh</td>
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<td>Farnia Fresnel</td>
<td><strong>Associate Directors:</strong></td>
<td>Aditya Sreekumar</td>
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<td>Marion Hubing</td>
<td>V Ernest Churchville V</td>
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<td>Walter Korn</td>
<td>V Qi Fang</td>
<td><strong>Faculty/Staff:</strong></td>
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<td>Matt Quale</td>
<td>V Ryan Wade</td>
<td>V Jamie Grant</td>
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<td>Harris Romanoff</td>
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<td>George Hain</td>
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<td>Sevile Mannickarottu</td>
<td>V <strong>Guests:</strong></td>
<td>Brad Richards V</td>
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<td>Ken Chen</td>
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<td>Emily Miller</td>
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<td>Sushmitha Yarrabothula</td>
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<td>Sandeep Bhat</td>
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<td>Shira Rieke</td>
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<td>Michaile Rainey</td>
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<td>Wendy Sandinsky</td>
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X=In-person  T=Telephone  V=Virtual
I. Call to Order (J. Olman)
   a) Called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

II. President’s Welcome & Remarks (J. Olman)
   a) Welcome everyone, it’s been a busy start to the year

III. Guest Speaker: Michaile Rainey, Penn Director of AWE (D. Becket)
   a) Advancing Women in Engineering is a Penn-only program
      ■ Slide presentation shown about AWE
      ● Started in 2008 to increase recruitment and retention in SEAS
      ● Supported by faculty board
      ● Pre-orientation is a three day program run by upper class students and staff
      ● 856 women have attended since 2008
      ● All programs are student lead and student driven
      ● Partners with Women’s Center on campus
      ● Tassel Toast is an excellent event, but being evaluated for cost efficiency
      ● Lamis – would students be open to Alumni panels now, despite Zoom burnout?
         (1) It can be offered, but need to maintain reasonable expectations
      ● Bob – do you get involved with other women engineering groups and maintain involvement post graduation?
         (1) The local chapter of SWE is very active with recruiting and professional organizations are promoted to female students
         (2) Grace Hopper and SWE are the two main societies sourced for potential female engineering talent
      ● Jay – are there any things alumni can do to be helpful?
         (1) If students reach out; be sure to respond, cross promote, and network
         (2) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
            (a) Dean Vijay Kumar met with faculty and made efforts to bolster diversity
            (b) Reach out to Dr. Stubbs
      ● Jay – is there a good way to let students know how to reach out to us?
         (1) MyPenn has an option available for Mentorship
IV. Development Office Report (G. Hain)
   a) George not in attendance
   b) February will have a fund matching drive

V. Career Services Report (J. Grant)
   a) Staying fully remote – being well received by students
   b) Spring Events – 3 large career fairs
   c) All Ivy and Sustainability Career Fair in late Spring
   d) All Ivy Just In Time before graduation in April

VI. Old Business:
   a) Approval of October 12, 2020 Minutes (Directors)
      ■ Minutes approved
   b) Approval of November 9, 2020 Minutes (Directors)
      ■ Minutes approved
   c) Open Action Item Review (B. Jones)
      ■ No open Action Items
   d) Homecoming Virtual Town Hall Event (11/11) (B. Richards)
      ■ Incredibly successful
      ■ 250 attendees dialed-in
      ■ Supported by Dean Vijay Kumar and Associate Dean David Meaney
      ■ Dean Vijay Kumar wanted to use the Virtual Town(e) Hall Event as a springboard to communicate with other alumni populations
      ■ A similar format was then used for an event with alumni in China
         ● 80 attended
      ■ Dean Vijay Kumar is now organizing an event for Indian alumni to be held in less than two weeks

VII. New Business:
   a) MyPenn System (J.Olman)
      ■ Replacement for QuakerNet
      ■ Reminder for everyone to log-in (and indicate you’re available for mentoring)
      ■ How should we be using chat functions?
   b) Yarnall Award (J. Olman)
      ■ COVID impacted last years award
      ■ Good virtual committee can start to identify candidates sooner
      ■ Should we push forward or put award on hold for current COVID period?
Unfortunately we couldn’t confirm last years winner’s ability to attend until last minute

■ If we do two this year, one for 2020 and one for 2021, we could get back on schedule

c) Senior Design Competition (J. Olman)

■ Similar situation due to COVID as Yarnall Award
■ Most faculty, students, and departments still want to do it, even if it’s a virtual event this year
■ Judges need to be selected in advance as well
■ Portions of Q&A would be done in more fixed question format

VIII. Around the Table (All)

a) Manasi – I attended a virtual conference in Europe, and no matter how well organized the event was there was an inevitable technical glitch that disabled some speakers to present. I think pre-recorded videos to be circulated for scoring would be the best approach.

IX. Adjourn (J. Olman) – at 7:00pm

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2021 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Virtual Only

Minutes prepared by Bernard Jones.