

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

**Attendees:**

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

X=In-person T=Telephone V=Virtual

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

- a) Called the meeting to order at 6:03pm

**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.