

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

Monday, March 8, 2021 6pm, Virtual Only

Attendees:

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

X=In-person T=Telephone V=Virtual

I. Call to Order (J. Olman)

- a) Called the meeting to order at 6:06pm

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

- a) Welcome everyone. This is the time of year we would typically be recapping the latest UPenn basketball game...it's strange we aren't
- b) I want to acknowledge this is International Women's Day
 - We need to recognize how difficult it can be for women, especially those in the engineering field

III. Development Office Report (G. Hain)

- a) We had an unbelievably successful February Challenge
 - I want to give special thanks to folks that pushed for donations
 - We had 459 donors, with over 100 during the last week in February
 - To put things into perspective – 3 years ago, we had 89 donors and February was historically the weakest month
 - It has turned into 20% of the entire years donations
- b) EAS and China committees yielded 15 donors
- c) 130 students taking MCIT online degrees donated
- d) We only solicited students who gave last year

IV. Career Services Report (J. Grant)

- a) No significant changes with recruiting from in-person to virtual
- b) Looking to schedule fall events already and hosting alumni panels
- c) Science Data Career Fair will take place on 19 March – we are still accepting hiring companies

V. Old Business:

- a) Approval of January 11, 2021 Minutes (Directors)
 - Minutes approved
- b) Open Action Item Review (B. Jones)
 - No open Action Items

VI. New Business:

- a) Yarnall Award (J. Olman)
 - It's been a very busy past month, the teams have been great
 - The current candidate is one of most impressive candidates Jim has seen
- b) Alumni Career Panels (J. Ng and L. Hedvat)
 - Not many updates

- Email chain going around
 - Remote Career Events is one topic; who would be interested?
 - (1) A survey was sent out
 - (a) Got 10-15 responses, assembling list of themes: 3D printing, biomedical inventions, etc.
 - Is this a good idea to pursue during this type of academic year? People might have zoom fatigue by the end of April
 - (1) There's a good Stanford article about how to combat fatigue
 - (2) Many EASB members stated support for the idea
 - Hopefully with MYPenn, there will be more opportunities and MyPenn will help to reach a wider audience easier
 - Should we consider having an event at a different time or day to attract a wider audience?
 - Is the University surveying students about whether they think they have fatigue?
 - (1) George - Mental health is a part of student health and zoom fatigue
 - (2) Brad – There is a heightened aware of stress more with workload
 - Seville – I would say students are fatigued
 - (1) The Center of Teaching and learning has looked into it
 - Sandeep – Everyone has joined free webinars
 - Jay - Having more domain specific events is interesting to consider
 - Matt – I participated in two events for Chem Eng in past 2 months
 - (1) 2nd had issues with pairing people up, but was mentor focused
 - Jeff - Does anyone have suggestions about alternative platforms?
 - Bob – We've had alumni speakers after our meetings, could that be a topic of interest?
 - (1) Perhaps include other alumni for a webinar event
- c) Senior Design Competition (J. Olman and B. Richards)
- Jay – I had a good chat with Lyle and Brad about what the SDC may look like going forward?
 - Brad – I spoke with Associate Dean David Meaney
 - Obviously we can't have SDC in person, but we are attempting to
 - Link for judging
<https://www.alumni.upenn.edu/s/1587/gid2/16/interior.aspx>

- (1) Judges will have 1 week to review videos
- Each team will record a 10min video of team's presentation
- Videos will be put online
 - (1) Judges will review in early May and score the designs
- This will kind of be like painting a car while it's in motion
- The event will likely lose the Q&A segment, but we are trying to consider all options to make the best event possible
- Will have a live award ceremony
 - (1) Tuesday May 11th with Dean Vijay Kumar
- The SDC will still be great this year with great student ideas, but more Zoom
- 6 departments pick a theme
 - (1) Top 3 from each department are selected to go to final competition.
- Seville – I heard rumors of changing awards
 - (1) Brad – Scoring may be changed from rank-order (gold/silver/bronze)
 - (a) We are exploring options of award categories: sustainability, best application of engineering principle, social impact, etc.
 - (b) We will more inclusively recognize work
 - (c) What is potential for marketability, commercialization, etc.
- Matt – SDC is an amazing option to see what UPenn does; it's my favorite part of EASB
- Seville – Could the videos be made public to the student body?
 - (1) Judges are invited and prepped
 - (2) Also intellectual property rules would require sign-off
 - (3) Dean Vijay Kumar initially thought this would help promote the school
- Jay - Afterwards, it might be reasonable to share the designs with student approval
 - (1) When do Students find out about SDC?
 - (a) They are creating a canvas class for students to see what is expected of them
 - (2) Rules of past competitions won't work now
- Dawn – Certain departments select different themes, which makes it like comparing apples to oranges instead of just a numerical categorization

- Brad – Additionally, in February, there were two great events called Penn Ideas
- Big data and energy were topics
- Great alumni engagement piece for school
- Brad – Yarnall Award; planning to award last year's award on March 26th

VII. Around the Table (All)

- a) Brad – Thanks to Jim for all the hard work on the Yarnall Award and getting committees committed
 - Sign up to be a Senior Design Competition judge
- b) George Lin – I've been working with an angel investment group through UPenn and have discussed getting more involved with the school
 - There will be a pitch event tomorrow, could send link out?
 - Perhaps topic at future EASB Meeting?
- c) Bob – Regarding Senior Design Competition, I like the idea about different categories, but it was tough to support and I had to drive up overnight
 - For comparison purposes, perhaps we could see how the past several years would've been categorized into the new scoring method?
- d) Dawn – I'm glad we are rethinking a new SDC format
- e) Yijie - First call I've been on today that recognized National Women's Day
- f) Earnest – I'm still teaching
- g) Bernard - I'll attend an AMES virtual event next week
 - Matt - be patient
- h) Jay – I will be attending the AMES meeting as well
- i) Jon Dunsay – Question for Brad; will the new SDC virtual format allow judges to review video presentations
 - Brad - yes
 - This will help avoid the bias of picking the most recently viewed design

VIII. Adjourn (J. Olman) – at 7:11pm

The next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2021 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Virtual Only

Minutes prepared by Bernard Jones.