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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive</th>
<th>Directors</th>
<th>At-Large Members</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>Lyle Brunhofer</td>
<td>V Parth Chopra</td>
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<td>Carl Clyde - VP</td>
<td>Jonathan Dunsay</td>
<td>V Lamis Elsawah</td>
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<td>Lauren Hedvat - VP</td>
<td>Yijie Hu</td>
<td>V David Goldstein</td>
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<td>Jonathan Lombardo - VP</td>
<td>Ramsey Kraya</td>
<td>V Patricia He</td>
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<td>Bernard Jones – Sec.</td>
<td>Paul McLaughlin</td>
<td>V Scott Levitt</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Ng</td>
<td>V William McGill</td>
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<td>Past Presidents:</td>
<td>Jason Rifkin</td>
<td>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</td>
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<td>Tim Carlsen</td>
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<td>Amrita Singh</td>
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<td>Farnia Fresnel</td>
<td>Marion Hubing</td>
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<td>Walter Korn</td>
<td>Qi Fang</td>
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<td>Matt Quale</td>
<td>V Jamie Grant</td>
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<td>Ryan Wade</td>
<td>V George Hain</td>
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<td>Harris Romanoff</td>
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<td>Ken Chen</td>
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<td>Emily Miller</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 6:06pm

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?
  - A survey was sent out
    - (1) 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
Judges will have 1 week to review videos
- Each team will record a 10min video of team’s presentation
- Videos will be put online
  - 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
  - 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
  - Top 3 from each department are selected to go to final competition.
- Sevile – I heard rumors of changing awards
  - Brad – Scoring may be changed from rank-order (gold/silver/bronze)
    - We are exploring options of award categories: sustainability, best application of engineering principle, social impact, etc.
    - We will more inclusively recognize work
    - 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
- Sevile – Could the videos be made public to the student body?
  - Judges are invited and prepped
  - Also intellectual property rules would require sign-off
  - Dean Vijay Kumar initially thought this would help promote the school
- Jay - Afterwards, it might be reasonable to share the designs with student approval
  - When do Students find out about SDC?
    - They are creating a canvas class for students to see what is expected of them
    - 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.