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

Monday, May 10, 2021 6pm, Virtual Only

**Attendees:**

<table>
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<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>Jay Olman - Pres.</td>
<td>V Jim Brennan</td>
<td>V Sandeep Bhat</td>
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<td>Carl Clyde - VP</td>
<td>Lyle Brunhofer</td>
<td>V Ed Chan</td>
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<td>Lauren Hedvat - VP</td>
<td>V Jonathan Dunsay</td>
<td>V Parth Chopra</td>
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<td>Jonathan Lombardo - VP</td>
<td>Yijie Hu</td>
<td>V Lamis Elsawah</td>
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<td>Bernard Jones – Sec.</td>
<td>V Ramsey Kraya</td>
<td>David Goldstein</td>
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<td>Robert Berkovits – Tres.</td>
<td>V Paul McLaughlin</td>
<td>Patricia He</td>
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<td>V Kush Mehta</td>
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<td>Scott Levitt</td>
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<td><strong>Past Presidents:</strong></td>
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<td>Jeffrey Ng</td>
<td>V George Lin</td>
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<td>Brad Abrams</td>
<td>Jason Rifkin</td>
<td>William McGill</td>
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<td>Eric Bensheetler</td>
<td>V Craig Schorr</td>
<td>Vasi Papanikolopoulos</td>
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<td>Tim Carlsen</td>
<td>Heather Stern</td>
<td>Aastha Puri</td>
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<td>V Famia Fresnel</td>
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<td>Manasi Puri</td>
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<td>Marion Hubing</td>
<td>V V Associate Directors:</td>
<td>Shira Rieke</td>
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<td>Walter Kom</td>
<td>Ernest Churchville</td>
<td>V Amrita Singh</td>
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<td>Matt Quale</td>
<td>V Qi Fang</td>
<td>Aditya Sreekumar</td>
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<td>Harris Romanoff</td>
<td>Ryan Wade</td>
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<td>V Sevile Mannickarottu</td>
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<td><strong>Faculty/Staff:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Guests:</strong></td>
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<td>Jamie Grant</td>
<td>V Emily Miller</td>
<td>Ken Chen</td>
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<td>George Hain</td>
<td>V Sushmitha Yarrabothula</td>
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<td>Brad Richards</td>
<td>V 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 6:05pm

II. **President's Welcome & Remarks (J. Olman)**
   a) Thanks to everyone for joining the last meeting of the school year

III. **Development Office Report (G. Hain)**
   a) We continue to have a great year fund raising
      ■ We are hoping to reach an all time record, beating last year
   b) We are struggling a bit with annual giving though
   c) I want to thank everyone for their work with the Senior Design Competition (SDC)
   d) I’d like to welcome a new attendee who graduated in ‘99, Kevin Turik
      ■ Kevin - I got my MBA and am now working for KPMG in tax practice, with R&D and tax credits
      ■ I saw a lot of news about Penn Engineering working with the community and am glad to join

IV. **IV. Career Services Report (J. Grant)**
   a) No huge updates, we are deep into the planning phase
   b) Engineering Career Day is being planned for 14 September
   c) We will have some industry reports and other things up on the website soon
   d) Sevile – will any of these virtual career fares continue in the future?
      ■ Probably; we will have supplementary events, which saves employers from traveling here
      ■ It does allow for significant participation by those that normally wouldn’t join
   e) George – has criteria changed in the virtual world for students to be prepared?
      ■ Yes, there’s a whole new area for students to be prepared during interviews. i.e. voices, eye contact, etc.
      ■ There are many resources on the website that anyone can use

V. **V. Old Business:**
   a) **Approval of April 12, 2021 Minutes Directors**
      ■ Bernard - I will combine the minutes provided by Matt during the last meeting with the minutes I took toward the end and provide to Jay
   b) **Open Action Item Review (B. Jones)**
      ■ No Open Action Items
   c) **MedTech Alumni Career Panel (J. Ng)**
      ■ Panel was held a few weeks ago
      ■ Had 80 people sign up with 30 people present during the night of the event
      ■ Provided all participants with a copy of the recording
      ■ Jaime helped market it
      ■ Ryan was a good host
      ■ Good participation with break out panels and stimulating conversation
• One caveat; one panel had issue with too many students in their breakout

■ We will save the email distro list and reuse the flyer for the next event
■ Jay – was it a good format that should continue?
  • Yes
■ Sevile – where were the panelists from?
  • BE, CompSci, etc.
  • 65 respondents got it from the mailing list
    (1) Social media, career services, etc.
■ Sevile – I meant where they were from?
  • One was from London studying for a Masters Degree, the rest were more local
■ Jay – I was unable to attend; on a scale of 1-10, how difficult was it to put on the event? Should someone else do it again?
  • We had a task list, so it was not as difficult as we expected
    (1) As long as the panelists show up, things were fine…we prepared them with questions ahead of time
    (2) Ryan did a lot of work logistically gathering emails from different departments
    (3) Identifying panelists was difficult
    (4) Eric – QuakerNet is now MyPenn

VI. VI. New Business:

a) 2021 Board Slate (S. Mannickarottu)

■ I’m the chair for the nominations committee
■ Everyone got an email about this: executive leadership continues from past year
■ [Vote: Proposed EAS Board of Directors]
  • All votes FOR, none OPPOSED

b) Yarnall Award (J. Brennan)

■ Spoke with John Brassington; he was very gracious in receiving the award

c) Senior Design Competition (L. Brunhofer and B. Richards)

■ It was a gigantic success considering students had limited access to labs
■ There were fantastic projects
■ Website: https://www.alumni.upenn.edu/2021SeniorDesign
■ We had record breaking participation from judges
■ Primary goal is to be back in-person next year, but perhaps we can mix up some of the lessons learned from this year
■ The Final Four projects will be presented tomorrow
■ Brad – the Senior Design Awards Ceremony zoom link at noon: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2676932980
■ Brad – the students were resilient and creative
  • We received great feedback from judges regarding topics
Judges from all over were glad they could contribute to students’ success

We can’t understate Lyle’s work, he built the entire back-end of the scoring process

Dawn – what is the format?

It will be a Zoom call, similar to EAS meetings, attended by the Undergraduate Dean of Education, Dean Vijay Kumar, staff, faculty, and students

Jim – how many judges participated?

69 judges signed up

Some of the feedback from judges was that they liked the ability to watch presentations on-demand

A big piece missing for the students was the live feedback and Q&A that happens real-time

Sandeep – there is probably a need for students to receive that Q&A feedback; how long will the info be available online?

The winners will be kept on the Senior Design website for recording purposes

Sevile will determine the new bar for Senior Design Competition

George – did all judges review every presentation?

Some did not, but 55 out of 69 completed all of them

Jon – Feedback: I tried to complete everyone, but couldn’t get ‘Identify’ to work, I received ‘max downloads exceeded’.

Matt – I had problem getting to the drive as well

Lauren – we used a scale of 1-10, but felt like it became unbalanced

Matt – in the past we normalized it

Brady – it was very competitive, down to the 10th of a point

Marion – is there some way to see it if we can’t view it tomorrow at noon?

Brad – yes, it will be recorded and made available

1) It will be sent out in a press-release style summary of winners to the UPenn Engineer Community

Reflections and Looking Ahead (J. Olman)

I want to take a few minutes looking back and looking forward

I appreciate everyone’s participation and perseverance

There are some really interesting questions to ask and answer regarding what future years will look like:

How much do we like these remote board meetings?

1) It’s a good level playing field for everyone to be participating equally

Should we have any in-person meetings at all?

1) Earnest – we should have in-person meetings

(a) Jay - Mix for now?

2) Lyle – I’m also a proponent of the in-person meeting

3) Bob – We should have mixed, but would be good to have planning meeting in July
(4) Sandeep – some organizations are going in opposite direction
(5) Lamis – I’ll continue to be remote
(6) Jay - virtual participation is here to stay
(7) Eric – it’s a good excuse to be back on campus
(8) Farnia – being able to see peoples’ faces is helpful and connects us
(9) Sevile – keep meetings virtual, but have 4-5 times a year when we get food or something?
(10) Jay – I’ve been the only person not present in meeting physically, so making participants feel equal is important
   (a) Expecting planning meeting in July will be virtual
(11) Matt – Sevile, do we need to update the bylaws (post-pandemic) or did we already do that? I know they used to require a certain number of in-person attendance
(12) Sevile – so, technically, the annual meeting is supposed to be in-person. Incidentally, I’m on campus now, so I guess that counts?
(13) Eric – we’re okay from a bylaws standpoint. In section 9, remote participation counts
   (a) “1. Attending at least six (6) meetings of the Board of Directors either in person or via teleconference (elected members of the Board are encouraged to attend meetings in person)”
   (b) If this is the most recent version online: https://eas.seas.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/EAS_By-Laws.pdf
(14) Jay – a review of our bylaws may be in order
   (a) Update them WRT our commitment regarding ODEI to reflect current student population
   (b) I want to focus on that in the coming year
(15) Farnia - We can partner with the newly formed ODEI Penn Eng Board. They just voted in a new exec board
(16) Eric – I think a formal statement would be a good idea as well
   (a) I want to thank Jay for holding this together during the extremely challenging past year

● What are pros/cons? Are we lacking anything?

VII. VII. Around the Table (All)

a) Jay – I was reminded today, we are currently in the middle of Philly Tech Week, which includes many things going on about local companies, workshops, and training sessions
b) Brad – join SDC award ceremony via link provided
c) Sevile – great work to Jay and the EAS Board
d) George – thanks to everyone for another great year and Jay’s leadership
e) Farnia – great to see people I don’t know on the call and thanks to leadership
f) Bob – I’ll need to find out how to review SDC finalists

g) Kevin – looking forward to SDC ceremony tomorrow

h) Jon – patent office is in hiring push, located in Alexandria, VA, but is being done virtually

i) Lamis – give props, the level of education didn’t falter during the pandemic

j) Dawn – looking forward to the future, great way to end year with SDC

k) Eric – everyone, please get vaccinated

l) Sandeep – this is my first year, thanks to the UPenn family

m) Ernest – fantastic job to Jay and EAS Board despite all the challenges and keeping on schedule

n) Jay – next planning meeting is July 19th, I’ll be sending out an email in advance, but please reach out if you have any ideas

VIII. Adjourn (J. Olman)

a) Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm

The next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2021 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Virtual Only

Minutes prepared by Bernard Jones.