

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

Monday, July 19, 2021 6pm, Virtual Only

Attendees:

<i>Executive:</i>		<i>Directors:</i>		<i>At-Large Members:</i>	
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	V	Jonathan Dunsay	V	Lamis Elsayah	
Lauren Hedvat - VP		Yijie Hu	V	David Goldstein	
Jonathan Lombardo - VP	V	Ramsey Kraya		Patricia He	
Bernard Jones – Sec.	V	Paul McLaughlin	V	Scott Levitt	
Robert Berkovits – Tres.	V	Kush Mehta		George Lin	
		Jeffrey Ng		William McGill	
<i>Past Presidents:</i>		Jason Rifkin	V	Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos	
Brad Abrams		Craig Schorr	V	Aastha Puri	
Eric Benshetler		Heather Stern	V	Manasi Puri	
Tim Carlsen				Amrita Singh	V
Farnia Fresnel	V	<i>Associate Directors:</i>		Aditya Sreekumar	
Marion Hubing	V	Ernest Churchville	V		
Walter Korn		Qi Fang		<i>Guests:</i>	
Matt Quale	V	Ryan Wade		Ken Chen	
Harris Romanoff				Emily Miller	
Seville Mannickarottu	V	<i>Faculty/Staff:</i>		Sushmitha Yarrabothula	
		Jamie Grant		Sandeep Bhat	V
		George Hain	V	Shira Rieke	
		Brad Richards	V	Michaile Rainey	
				Wendy Sandinsky	
				Kevin Turik	V

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 UPenn Engineering working with the community and am glad to join
- 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) Seville – will any of these virtual career fairs 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. 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 an 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
- Seville – where were the panelists from?
 - BE, CompSci, etc.
 - 65 respondents got it from the mailing list
 - (1) Social media, career services, etc.
- Seville – 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 will take place at noon via this Zoom link: <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 the 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
 - Seville 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
 - Brad – 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 Engineering Community

d) 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 – A 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 an in-person 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) Seville – Keep meetings virtual, but we could also have 4-5 meetings 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) I'm expecting the planning meeting in July to be virtual
- (11) Matt – Seville, 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
 - (a) Seville – so, technically, the annual meeting is supposed to be in-person. Incidentally, I'm on campus now, so I guess that counts?
- (12) 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)"
 - (i) If this is the most recent version online:
https://eas.seas.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/EAS_By-Laws.pdf
- (13) 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
- (14) Farnia - We can partner with the newly formed ODEI Penn Eng Board. They just voted in a new exec. board
- (15) 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 the link provided
- c) Seville – 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 September 13, 2021 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Virtual Only

Minutes prepared by Bernard Jones.