Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104
eas.seas.upenn.edu

Monday, November 15, 2021 6pm, Virtual Only

Attendees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive:</th>
<th>Directors:</th>
<th>At-Large Members:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dean Vijay Kumar</td>
<td>Dawn Becket</td>
<td>Jason Bethala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Dean David Meaney</td>
<td>Jim Brennan</td>
<td>Ed Chan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Olman - Pres.</td>
<td>Lyle Brunhofer</td>
<td>Parth Chopra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Clyde - VP</td>
<td>Jonathan Dunsay</td>
<td>Lamis Elsawah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Hedvat - VP</td>
<td>Yijie Hu</td>
<td>David Goldstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Lombardo - VP</td>
<td>Ramsey Kraya</td>
<td>Patricia He</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernard Jones – Sec.</td>
<td>Paul McLaughlin</td>
<td>Scott Levitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Berkovits – Tres.</td>
<td>Kush Mehta</td>
<td>George Lin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jeffrey Ng</td>
<td>William McGill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Past Presidents:

| Brad Abrams                      | Craig Schorr                      | Aastha Puri                      |
| Eric Benshetler                  | Heather Stern                     | Manasi Puri                      |
| Tim Carlsen                      |                                   | Amrita Singh                     |
| Famia Fresnel                    | V                                  | Associate Directors:            |
| Marion Hubing                    | Ernest Churchville                | Aditya Sreekumar                |
| Walter Kom                       | Qi Fang                           | Guests:                          |
| Matt Quale                       | V                                  |                                  |
| Harris Romanoff                  | Ryan Wade                         | Ken Chen                         |
| Sevile Mannickarottu             | V                                  | Emily Miller                     |
| Faculty/Staff:                   | Sushmitha Yarrabothula            |                                  |
|                                  | Jamie Grant                       | Sandeep Bhat                     |
|                                  | George Hain                       | Shira Rieke                      |
|                                  | Brad Richards                     | Michaele Rainey                  |
|                                  |                                   | Wendy Sandinsky                  |
|                                  |                                   | Kevin Turik                      |

X=In-person T=Telephone V=Virtual
I. Call to Order (J. Olman)
   a) Meeting called to order at 6:05pm

II. President’s Welcome & Remarks (J. Olman)
   a) Last meeting of the year

III. Dean’s Remarks (Dean V. Kumar)
   a) Dean Vijay Kumar
      ■ Thank you, it’s a pleasure to speak to all of you
      ■ You’re a group of the most dedicated volunteers at UPenn
      ■ We are still in the midst of COVID, but the silver lining is that we can do it on zoom
      ■ The last eighteen months have been trying on all of us and I thank you
      ■ Thanks to Lyle Brunhofer and the team that conducted SDC
         ● We reached double the alumni we usually do, which allowed us to showcase the talents and accomplishments of our great students
         ● When I speak to alumni, they are blown away by this event
      ■ I was told to keep my remarks to five minutes, but I’ll struggle to do that; we’ve had an awesome year
      ■ We are back to normal…as much as possible
      ■ All classes and labs are in-person
      ■ We are looking forward to in-person alumni weekend and commencement
      ■ Need to wear a masks, but the students, faculty, and staff are there
      ■ Less than 0.4% positive COVID rates on campus, which is less than Philly and national average, so we’re doing a good job of handling the epidemic
      ■ Three Significant Announcements:
         1. On October 1, we broke ground for latest building, The Data Science Building,
            o It’s been named Amy Gutmann Hall, has 120k sq, 6 floors, data science hub, and labs
            o Data is the new language
            o Philadelphia’s and UPenn’s first Mass Timber Building
               a. Built with timber and has a 30% lower carbon footprint
         2. Investment of precision engineering for health, CPE4H
            o Hiring of ten faculty and staff with interest in engineering and health sciences
               a. Penn lead development of MRNA
               b. Encapsulation
               c. Materials science
               d. Data science drives this
3. Another building ground breaking is eminent, with support from Roy Vagelos, and will be located just east of DRL
   - President’s latest development is a collaboration of SEAS and SAS
   - The thing I worry about least is admissions, I worry about connecting these students with alumni, who can position them for jobs and networking
     - Gone are the days of companies coming to campus
     - We need to do a better job of connecting students with opportunities!
       - While we have organizations in place, we need to do a lot more
   - Ryan – you mentioned a new type of construction…can you speak of that vs the traditional style?
     - In contrast to the Singh Center; if you use wood, the amount of energy required is lower
       - Steel and concrete are very energy intensive
       - Most of the concrete comes from China…
       - Most timber is from North America…
       - If you cut down 1/3 every ten years, it can be managed well
       - Glass has many materials added to it to make it resistant
       - The wood will be very resistant to flame
   - Paul – when will it be complete and a tour available
     - After I tour it of course, 2024 is the expected move-in date
   - Next month on Friday, we will be celebrating an amazing institution at Penn Engineering
     - Ingram was named director of Office of Diversity and Inclusion
     - There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony in a new space in the Towne Building
   - Farnia – where is it?
     - 34th and Chestnut St.

IV. Development Office Report  
   G. Hain

   a) Sorry I missed the last couple of meetings, because Dean Vijay Kumar and I have been on the road, we just got back from SF & we are going to London at the end of the month
   b) We are doing well with donors
     - Masters in CSE has two thousand online students
       - We just sent out a mailing and got eighty donations, which is very good out of two thousand
   c) February challenge is alive and well, goal is 500 donors
     - Bernard – do matching gifts count?
Yes, but typically after a month, so it would be considered a corporate donation, no individual

**V. Career Services Report**

*J. Grant*

a) Just moved-in to new home

b) Hired new Associate Director for our team from Swarthmore
   - She's bringing many initiatives with her

c) Spring career events will be virtual again
   - ODIE will be involved

d) We will continue to work towards in-person setting
   - Sevile – is that a concern with companies not working the way they used to with respect to Dean Vijay Kumar’s earlier comment
     - There has definitely been a sea of change
     - We are seeing it impacting more financing and recruiting
     - Some are trying to get away from target schools, which UPenn is, but they are trying to level the playing field
   - Still seeing salary increases
   - Paul – we will speak about externs and mentoring outside of this meeting
   - Farnia – are students being more discerning? Do you have any insight into which industries or what students are seeking?
     - There is a gravitation towards technology, math, and data analytics across industries
     - More conversations about internal diversity and professional engagement
     - Trending from students from admissions until they graduate
     - Farnia follow-up question – are people leaving jobs, which opens up opportunities for college recruits?
       - Autonomy in projects, and other opportunities being offered at start

**VI. Old Business:**

*Directors*

a) Approval of October 11, 2021 Minutes
   - Minutes approved

*b) Open Action Item Review*
   - No open Action Items

*c) Seattle Event Recap*
During the Seattle trip, I had much coffee, but was able to secure three alums to think through regional involvement on the ground.

Need to discuss more internally, but it will depend on us to lend support to help them.

Bottom line; it was very successful and alumni want to do more.

We should know more in a couple weeks.

Conducted a virtual Homecoming Town Hall event with Dean Vijay Kumar with talks on the future of biosciences and engineering.

- About 150 attended, which was drop from last year, but not negative considering Zoom fatigue.

VII. New Business:

a) Committee Plans

[See Presentation] Carl Clyde EE ’83

J. Olman

i. Student Programming

J. Dunsay

- How are committees listed?
- Jay – they will be discussed via email
- When we spoke, it sounds like events will remain virtual
  - Brad – continuing to do the coffee chat
    - (a) Participation has been about ½ of last years
    - (b) We can still conduct events, but we need to adjust expectations
  - We don’t want to stretch Brad too thin, is it better to reach out to him as needed?
    - (a) Brad - please add me to conversation

ii. Alumni Programming

J. Lombardo

- John couldn’t join this evening
  - Not much expected until stuff can be done in-person with alumni
  - Brad – Matt suggested to add what he discussed with team
    - (a) Totally agree student programming should pause
    - (b) One thing we are doing in the meantime while we can’t meet in-person, working with programmer to develop alumni recourse booklet with links
      - (i) Hope to launch booklet in the spring
i. Advancing Women in Engineering

- Reached out to Michele, but no response, so I need to follow-up
  - I wouldn’t assume anything will happen before then

ii. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Jay – I still need to reach out to Laura Stubbs

VIII. Around the Table

- Sevile – the breakout rooms were a great idea
- Amrita – it’s nice to hear all the updates over last the last couple months…
- Bob – I may need to go in for observation at medical center
  - Megan Ryerson from the School of Design would be good speaker
  - Earnest Churchill had great ideas for a number of years
- Ernest – I’ve been keeping busy teaching at Springfield High School
  - Still writing a calculus book on theory and application
    - Doing it on my iPhone
    - Spring time completion date
- Jon – I would love to see Ernest’s book

IX. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm

The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2022 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Virtual Only

Minutes prepared by Bernard Jones.