

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:

<i>Executive:</i>		<i>Directors:</i>		<i>At-Large Members:</i>	
Dean Vijay Kumar	V	Dawn Becket	V	Jason Bethala	
Associate Dean David Meaney		Jim Brennan		Ed Chan	
Jay Olman - Pres.	V	Lyle Brunhofer		Parth Chopra	
Carl Clyde - VP	V	Jonathan Dunsay	V	Lamis Elsayah	V
Lauren Hedvat - VP	V	Yijie Hu	V	David Goldstein	V
Jonathan Lombardo - VP		Ramsey Kraya	V	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		Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos	
Brad Abrams		Craig Schorr	V	Aastha Puri	
Eric Benshetler	V	Heather Stern		Manasi Puri	
Tim Carlsen				Amrita Singh	V
Farnia Fresnel	V	<i>Associate Directors:</i>		Aditya Sreekumar	
Marion Hubing		Ernest Churchville	V		
Walter Korn		Qi Fang		<i>Guests:</i>	
Matt Quale	V	Ryan Wade	V	Ken Chen	
Harris Romanoff				Emily Miller	
Sevile Mannickarottu	V	<i>Faculty/Staff:</i>		Sushmitha Yarrabothula	
		Jamie Grant	V	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) 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,
 - It's been named Amy Gutmann Hall, has 120k sq, 6 floors, data science hub, and labs
 - Data is the new language
 - 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
 - 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
 - Seville – 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:

- a) Approval of October 11, 2021 Minutes **Directors**
 - Minutes approved
- b) Open Action Item Review **B. Jones**
 - No open Action Items
- c) Seattle Event Recap **B. Richards**

- 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

J. Olman

- [See Presentation] Carl Clyde EE '83

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

semester

- iii. Advancing Women in Engineering **L. Elsawah**
 - Reached out to Michele, but no response, so I need to follow-up
 - I wouldn't assume anything will happen before then
- iv. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion **J. Olman**
 - Jay – I still need to reach out to Laura Stubbs

VIII. Around the Table

All

- a) Seville – the breakout rooms were a great idea
- b) Amrita – it's nice to hear all the updates over last the last couple months...
- c) 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
- d) 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
- e) Jon – I would love to see Ernest's book

IX. Adjourn

J. Olman

- a) 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.