

**Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors**  
*University of Pennsylvania*  
*Philadelphia, PA 19104*  
[eas.seas.upenn.edu](http://eas.seas.upenn.edu)

**Monday, September 19, 2022 6pm, Virtual Only**

**Attendees:**

<b><i>Executive:</i></b>	<b><i>Directors:</i></b>	<b><i>At-Large Members:</i></b>	
Dean Vijay Kumar	Yijie Hu	V Jason Bethala	
Associate Dean David Meaney	Ramsey Kraya	Ed Chan	
Bernard Jones - Pres.	V Ernest Churchville	V Parth Chopra	
Dawn Becket - VP	V Robert Berkovits	V David Goldstein	
Lyle Brunhofer - VP	V Jim Brennan	V Scott Levitt	
Jeffrey Ng - VP	V Carl Clyde	V George Lin	
Jonathan Lombardo – Sec.	V Jonathan Dunsay	V William McGill	
Jason Rifkin – Tres.	Lamis Elsayah	V Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos	
<b><i>Past Presidents:</i></b>	Lauren Hedvat	V Aastha Puri	
Brad Abrams	Paul McLaughlin	V Manasi Puri	
Eric Benshetler	V Heather Stern	Aditya Sreekumar	
Tim Carlsen	Ryan Wade	V Kevin Turik	
Farnia Fresnel	V		
Marion Hubing	V		
Walter Korn	<b><i>Guests:</i></b>		
Matt Quale	V Ken Chen		
Harris Romanoff	Emily Miller		
Sevile Mannickarottu	V Jackie Moriniere		
Jay Olman	V Sushmitha Yarrabothula	<b><i>Faculty/Staff:</i></b>	
	Shira Rieke	Jamie Grant	V
<b><i>Associate Directors:</i></b>	Michaile Rainey	George Hain	V
Sandeep Bhat	V Wendy Sandinsky	Brad Richards	V
Patricia Z. He	Ricky Rajani	Emily Parry	
Kush Mehta	V Chase Bender	V	
Craig Schorr	V		
Amrita Singh			

X=In-person T=Telephone V=Virtual

**I. Call to Order**

**B. Jones**

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:04pm

**II. President's Welcome & Remarks**

**B. Jones**

- a. Welcome everyone to the official academic year kickoff meeting

**III. Development Office Report**

**G. Hain**

- a. George:

- i. Taking a phased retirement
- ii. No longer a Vice Dean, no one reporting to me. Will be Executive Director of Individual Giving for next two years
- iii. In roughly 23 months, need to retire
- iv. Looking forward to staying on these calls
- v. As far as year for development, somewhat cautious and need to not be too aggressive with our goals
  - 1. Very dependent on a few key gifts
  - 2. Waiting for them to come in
  - 3. Data Science Center (Amy Gutman Hall) fundraising near complete
  - 4. Vagelos Building fundraising close to goal
  - 5. What's next? For Dean Vijay Kumar to determine
    - a. Intersection of engineering and medicine (now called Center for Precision Engineering for Health (CPE4H))
    - b. Looking to do more collaboration with Medical School
  - 6. Will be doing February challenge again. Hopefully, I can get Lauren to help again. Hope you all will give a lot, and give often!
- vi. Returning to normalcy
  - 1. Lots of events for coming fiscal year

**IV. Career Services Report**

**J. Grant**

- a. Jamie:

- i. Coming off biggest week for Engineering Career Services:
  - 1. Had Virtual Career Fair last Thursday and in person Career Fair Friday
    - a. First time for in person since 2019
    - b. New location at Houston Hall worked well

- c. For virtual fair: 37 different orgs, 38 different groups for information sessions inside fair platform, 825 individual 10 minute one on one student-employer meetings
  - 2. In person Friday:
    - a. 59 organizations and just under 1400 students came through
    - b. Constant flow
    - c. Thank you to you all that were employer representatives and that visited
  - 3. These were just the kickoff to an exciting recruitment season:
    - a. Roblox coming through for a meet and greet in engineering school
    - b. Biosciences career fair at end of September
  - 4. Special thanks to development team because as of tomorrow we are piloting having career services advising on-site in Towne Building using development team conference room on first floor a few times per week. First appointments immediately filled.

**V. Old Business:**

- a. Approval of July 18 Minutes Directors
  - i. Minutes Approved
- b. Open Action Item Review J. Lombardo
  - i. None
- c. 2022-2023 Committee Selection Update B. Jones
  - i. Bernard:
    - 1. Zoom link setup now. We should be able to avoid the issues from last meeting
    - 2. We can either run through the Committee selection update, or review offline. Any questions?
    - 3. No questions, will move on to new business

**VI. New Business:**

- a. 2022-2023 Meeting Schedule Status B. Jones
  - i. Bernard:
    - 1. We talked last time about reducing our number of meetings, having longer more meaningful meetings

2. Would like to poll the group as to whether we need to have the October meeting
  - a. Lauren: Because Homecoming is in October, it might make sense to eliminate the November meeting and keep the October meeting
  - b. Bernard: yes, that makes sense. There was also discussion in July about having a sidebar meeting during that Homecoming time period because there may be more people in town. Any interest in that? Brad or George, any way we can know who is planning to attend?
  - c. Brad: difficult because Homecoming is a very heavily programmed event
  - d. Matt: Meetings drive things to get done. Without as many meetings, much more ownership required by committee leads. I joined the Board because of an event and hearing a Board member at that time talking about the Board. I think having Board members attend helps get awareness and interest in the Board. We have tried QR codes and things like that to have for people at the event to share with attendees.
  - e. Farnia: I would like to echo both Matt's sentiments. Onus will fall to meeting following canceled one should we compress another meeting (if we cancel November, traditionally don't have December meeting, then the January meeting will be longer).
  - f. Bernard: Good comments. Let's see how the October meeting goes. I will be following up with the committees. It looks like eliminating a meeting in the spring would be best. Don't want a 2-3 month gap and agree that the meetings force committees to take action.
  - g. Eric: I will be reaching out to the Alumni Relations Interview Program and see if someone from there can attend our October meeting. I will keep you posted. Early Decision interviews are usually early October.

- h. Jay: If it's a matter of making sure there is enough content to warrant a meeting, I agree it's good to skip. However, last year we tried using a scheduled meeting as a working session, and I think that is still a good use of our time if we need content
- i. Seville: I thought that was a great use of the meeting
- j. Bernard: I like the idea of pursuing the breakout sessions in the meeting we would eliminate (such as November).
- k. Jay: For tracking attendance, it would still count as a meeting. We can still join, check in, and then head to breakout sessions

b. Penn Regional Participation Discussion

B. Jones and Board

- i. Bernard: Have this on here to determine how we break up the regional committees/participation (e.g., international/West Coast). Obviously, the committees will need to work on this, but I wanted to see if Brad had any new input?
- ii. Brad: yes, on the regional side I had a great trip to Seattle in July.
  1. Had great series of meetings with Associate Dean Boon Loo, the MCIT online program staff, and our traditional complement of anchor visits to Microsoft, Amazon, and Meta.
  2. Went to Seattle chapter kickoff: launched volunteer driven regional club in Seattle in July
  3. Helps to raise profile of Penn Engineering
  4. On regional, George, Dean Vijay Kumar, and I will be back in SF and Silicon Valley in October. Doing an event at Kleiner Perkins (famous tech investing company)
  5. New York City event just was scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup>
    - a. Yet to send that out. Dean Vijay Kumar and Dan Hammer (new director of Center for Precision Engineering for Health) attending. We will be doing the event will be at the Penn Club
  6. Dean Vijay Kumar and Dan Hammer will be presenting to Penn Engineering Club of China this Saturday as well
    - a. Travel/events there still difficult because of COVID, so doing a virtual event in China (and replicated in NYC on November 1<sup>st</sup>)
  7. Continuing to do a mix of in person and virtual events
  8. Homecoming is October 22<sup>nd</sup>

- a. Several emails regarding registration have gone out
- iii. Sandeep
- 1. I'm in Princeton, Penn Club of Central NJ its a sizable but unknown club (7500 members).
    - a. Challenge getting squished between NYC and Penn campus
    - b. Looking for events
  - 2. Bernard:
    - a. Fantastic! Typical size for local area clubs?
      - i. Sandeep: no, we are technically a mega club, but lost in the shuffle. Tend to get less engagement because people can head down to campus
    - b. Bernard: Not sure how to highlight Penn Club of Central NJ and not feel underappreciated.
    - c. We would like to bring them more into the fold
- iv. Brad:
- 1. If anyone has questions, or would like to help, let me know. The main one to focus on is Homecoming
  - 2. Bernard: can you send out an email or add to Zoom chat with the events
    - a. Brad: yes, I will send to Jon Lombardo to add to minutes
      - i. Homecoming is the first big one coming up
- v. George:
- 1. Dean Vijay Kumar and I going back to India for an event in Mumbai in January for 7<sup>th</sup> annual Penn India Technology Forum
    - a. Whole host of Penn events for 3-4 days following that
  - 2. Anyone who will be there, please let me know. Don't need involvement, just showing up to the events would be great.
    - a. Sandeep: I will be in Bangalore. So same time, wrong city!
      - i. George: we will have an event there on January 5<sup>th</sup>. I wont be there, but let me know if you can attend
    - b. Kush: I will be in Bangalore in December – January and can try to attend/meet up with Sandeep. I can also probably come to Bombay as well on January 7<sup>th</sup>
  - 3. Bernard: Fantastic! What are the dates for India in January?

- a. George: faculty member in Bangalore January 5<sup>th</sup>
  - i. Then we are all meeting January 7<sup>th</sup> in Mumbai, which is a Saturday for Penn India Technology Forum
  - ii. Done in the past in Bangalore, Mumbai, and virtually during COVID. This is the first return post-COVID. Very excited about this
  - iii. 1110 alumni in India, most in Mumbai. Penn Engineering does not have a large presence in Delhi, so not going there (Penn as a whole does though).
    - 1. This is another attempt to get alumni in Bangalore to come out
  - iv. Then we go to Singapore January 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

4. Bernard:

- a. Point of my questions about dates - was asking about dates for possibility of international meeting for our Board (right now our January meeting is scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup>)
- b. Is the setting for any of these locations, George, suitable for one of our meetings?
  - i. George: Time difference can make it difficult, best is morning EST. Head of Mumbai Alumni club is a Penn engineer. I am sure you can have a great discussion with her.
  - ii. Bernard: I am thinking something even on the weekend to break the ice
  - iii. George: worth talking about, execution will be the issue. I would add to the agenda for discussion
    - 1. Bernard: I will add to agenda

c. Meet the Board

TBD

- i. Bernard: I neglected to have a volunteer lined up for this. Do we have a volunteer for our October meeting?
  - 1. When I did this, I was reluctant at first, and it was difficult to condense everything down, but I enjoyed it and is a fantastic process
  - 2. Any volunteer?
- ii. Matt: just say we will not adjourn until someone volunteers!

1. Bernard: yes!
- iii. Dawn: I can do November. I might have a conflict with the October one
- iv. Lauren: same for me. I can't do October, but I can do a future one
- v. Bernard: anyone for October? A newer Board member?
  1. Lamis, I would do it, but will be overseas
  2. Sandeep: I can do it, but may be traveling, but put me in
    - a. Bernard: great! I will send something out if you do have a conflict and we need a substitute
  3. Farnia: can we record a meet the Board? Have on the website?
    - a. Sandeep: I can try
    - b. Bernard: great idea! Sounds like we have someone for October, November, and January now. Thank you volunteers!
- d. Bernard: Any other discussion items or comments?
  - i. Bernard: Jim, you want to discuss the Yarnall award?
  - ii. Jim: A few months ago, we presented 12 candidates. Narrowed down to a choice and a backup. We need to have Bernard present a motion to approve these candidates.
  - iii. Bernard: Before requesting a vote, would it be permissible for Jim to provide me (or the Board) with the two individuals with a synopsis of their accomplishments?
  - iv. Jay: if sharing bios, don't send to list serve, maybe only send to recent meeting attendees, i.e., active members
  - v. Jim: keeping this within the committee keeps this secure
  - vi. Bernard: motion to approve the primary candidate?
  - vii. Jay: we usually present candidate at one meeting and then vote at the next meeting. Is this first or second time we voted on this?
  - viii. Jim: this is the second time
  - ix. Bernard: motion to approve?
    1. Motion approved
    2. The candidate is now approved
    3. Thank you, Jim, for the update!

VII. **Around the Table**

**All**

- a. Brad: please come to Homecoming October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Would love to see you all in person
- b. Jamie: nothing to add, back to the recruitment races!



- c. Kush: I was able to speak to the EDAB and ESAC presidents. They have a lot of ideas, and we should be able to work with them very closely.
  - i. Bernard: Please keep me involved, and I will try to attend next meeting you have with them
- d. Bob: Penn Club Baltimore having an event in Annapolis on Saturday 9/24 at a small brewery. They are getting active again. Not sure if anyone is doing the Speaker Series, we can always contact the School of Design – Prof. Ryerson who is doing great work there
  - i. Bernard: thanks, we assigned you to the Speaker Series committee. Please email me, and we can get moving on getting speakers
- e. Jon Lombardo: nothing from me, great meeting
- f. Farnia: great to be back and witness this meeting!
- g. Dawn: nothing from me
- h. Matt: nothing from me
- i. George: love the turnout of the hats. The hats look great.
  - i. Bernard: send us a pic?
  - ii. George: no hints!
- j. Lyle: nothing from me. Looking forward to seeing everyone back
- k. Lauren: looking forward to great year
- l. Yijie: excited to learn more about other members
  - i. Bernard: thank you for helping with transferring our social media content
- m. Jon Dunsay: Can't believe it's September 19<sup>th</sup> already! Will reach out to Jon Lombardo about our event to get started!
- n. Paul: great to be back
- o. Chase: congrats on retirement, George
- p. Carl: nothing from me
- q. Sandeep: wonderful event on Friday. Excited for telling you all a little more about myself
- r. Marion: great meeting, pleasure to attend
- s. Ryan: nothing from me, thanks for great meeting
- t. Jim: nothing from me, looking forward to year
- u. Eric: looking forward to Homecoming. During meeting sent email to director of Penn Alumni Interview Program about getting a speaker for our October meeting. Great

- news for George! We go way back. George planned our 10<sup>th</sup> class reunion 9and maybe earlier) and we just celebrated our 45<sup>th</sup>
- v. Lamis: great seeing everyone. Thank you for great event, Jamie.
  - w. Jay: 2 things: 1) last time I talked about board games for fun. If you reached out to me about it, it hasn't happened yet, but will happen. 2) I posted on the LinkedIn page today about an NPR podcast about science for kids (Wow in the World), family friendly discussion (usually about a recent paper), really informative and entertaining. Most recent episode was about tooth brushing microrobots developed by the Dental School and Penn Engineering
    - i. Bernard: Fantastic, fascinating story. Definitely sign me up for the gaming event!
  - x. Ernest: book is going very well. Welcome, Bernard, as our new leader. Book is going great and getting great feedback from other faculty.
    - i. Bernard: would love to see the working draft when ready. I have great friend that teaches high school math.
    - ii. Ernest: this book is very different, even has common sense proofs in it
  - y. Bob: I wanted to mention that in 2015 before Homecoming, took a cruise (RCI Anthem of the Seas) that had a robot bar tender. Recently saw something about PFOA mitigation in the environment. Not sure if from MIT or some other engineering school, but they are working on it. I will email you, Bernard, about spectrum management and radar.

VIII. **Adjourn**

**B. Jones**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

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

Minutes prepared by Jon Lombardo