

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

Monday, October 10, 2022 6pm, Virtual Only

Attendees:

<i>Executive:</i>	<i>Directors:</i>	<i>At-Large Members:</i>	
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	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	William McGill	
Jason Rifkin – Tres.	V Lamis Elsawah	Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos	
<i>Past Presidents:</i>	Lauren Hedvat	V Aastha Puri	
Brad Abrams	Paul McLaughlin	Manasi Puri	
Eric Benshetler	V Heather Stern	Aditya Sreekumar	
Tim Carlsen	Ryan Wade	Kevin Turik	
Farnia Fresnel			
Marion Hubing	V		
Walter Korn	<i>Guests:</i>		
Matt Quale	V Ken Chen		
Harris Romanoff	Emily Miller		
Sevile Mannickarottu	V Jackie Moriniere		
Jay Olman	V Sushmitha Yarrabothula	<i>Faculty/Staff:</i>	
	Shira Rieke	Jamie Grant	
<i>Associate Directors:</i>	Michaile Rainey	George Hain	V
Sandeep Bhat	Wendy Sandinsky	Brad Richards	V
Patricia Z. He	Ricky Rajani	Emily Parry	
Kush Mehta	V Chase Bender	Monica Stepanow	V
Craig Schorr			
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. Bernard:

- i. Welcome everyone to the October 10, 2022 Board meeting. Hopefully everyone saw the email I sent with a few things to announce:

1. Homecoming: we will discuss further in this meeting, but please sign up using the link in the email
2. Finalized committee list: please let me know if you were missed or on a committee you didn't want to be on
3. Time frames on agenda: want to stick to agenda and estimate when people will speak (in case they are joining late or have hard stops). If we change the meeting schedule or want to add more content, hopefully this will help us know how much time these things take
4. Sandeep emailed me and has a family commitment that may prevent him from presenting tonight
5. We have Monica Stepanow speaking tonight about Penn's Alumni Interview program thanks for Eric's help! Monica will present on how we be involved and effective as interviewers

III. Development Office Report

G. Hain

- a. George:

- i. Things going well in the Development Office

1. As far as totals for the year, right on target.
2. In last week received a couple large gifts for Data Science Building (at 100% now for that).
3. Bigger and better things ahead. Will hear from Dean Vijay Kumar as to what that will be, but it will be intersection of engineering and medicine going forward.

- ii. Annual giving – ahead of donors and dollars

1. But kickoff mailing went out early this year

- iii. Many alumni relations events ahead – Brad can update everyone, but the ones I am involved with are San Francisco (October 25th at Kleiner Perkins) and downtown San Francisco (October 26th). We are OK on RSVPs, but

down from pre-COVID. I am a little concerned, but we need to start somewhere.

1. We now know 100% Dean Vijay Kumar and I will be in Bangalore January 11-12th and Mumbai January 13th – 15th. Kush if you or anyone else can be there, let me know and we will send you the invitations for the events we will be joining.

b. Brad:

- i. Other alumni relations events: at Penn Club in NYC on November 1st (Dean Vijay Kumar and Dan Hammer). Invite went out for that. New Yorkers please show up and invite friends. We are looking forward to being back in NY on November 1st!

c. Bernard: I tried to add these events in tonight's meeting, so please check that if anyone didn't catch them as Brad and George mentioned them.

IV. Career Services Report

J. Grant

a. Jamie not attending

V. Old Business:

a. Approval of September 19, 2022 Minutes

Directors

- i. Minutes Approved with one item to correct: correct Ernest Churchville's first name (not Ernie)

b. Open Action Item Review

J. Lombardo

- i. None

VI. New Business:

a. Homecoming:

B. Richards

- i. October 22nd, resuming post game reception 4pm-6pm in Levin lobby. Please sign up:

1. https://www.alumni.upenn.edu/s/1587/gid2/16/interior_specEvent.aspx?sid=1587&gid=2&sitebuilder=1&pgid=412&contentbuilder=1

ii. Matt: definitive start time or after game?

1. Brad: we will be ready for people right after game, leaving at halftime might be too early. Game is at 1pm, event 4pm

iii. Jay: Penn football doesn't end after 3rd quarter – there's a whole other quarter!

iv. Brad: right!

v. Bernard: How can we get tickets?

- vi. Brad: sign up and register on Homecoming site.
 - vii. Matt: pass includes the tickets.
 - viii. Bernard: any limit on attendees?
 - ix. Brad: for reception no, we are ready to welcome and accommodate guests
- b. Penn Alumni Interview Program/Q&A M. Stepanow
- i. Monica Stepanow (Director of Penn Alumni Interview Program):
 1. Thank you for all inviting me to join tonight.
 2. I have been in this role since February, but I've been working in the interview program since 2015 and have been working at Penn since 2011.
 3. Alumni interview program supports the undergrad interview process
 4. Program is dedicated to ensuring every undergraduate applicant who is offered an interview has a positive experience.
 5. Interviews are a wonderful opportunity to provide applicants to get to know Penn, ask questions, and leave students with lasting impression of Penn and the Penn community.
 6. Why We Interview: allows students to share their stories, feel welcomed. For alumni it is a great opportunity to share your experience, hear what they have to say, understand what they are interested in studying. Wonderful way for allowing alumni to get involved and share enthusiasm for Penn.
 7. Last year: 41,400 interviews offered, 21,400 registered volunteers, 10,200 high schools reached, 9200 interviewers who conducted at least one interview, 480 committee leaders, interviews conducted in all 50 states and 140 countries.
 8. Virtual interviewing introduced in 2013. All virtual in 2021-2022. Remaining virtual for coming cycle. The virtual interview process has expanded our reach and provided other benefits (e.g., convenience, safety)
 9. Applications have spiked recently, possibly due to Penn going test optional.
 10. Engineering Committee Stats: roughly 3000 registered engineering alumni interviewers, 8 SEAS-specific committees (e.g., program specific domestic committees), 2 dual-degree. 60% of SEAS

applicants received an interview and 65% of those interviewed apps met with a SEAS Alum.

11. How it works:

- a. Register to interview. Season runs from October to February.
- b. Using portal, share how many interviews you can conduct (average is 4-5 interviews per year). Once registered, you can identify how many you can do based on availability.
- c. Accept/decline assignments once registered via portal.
- d. Schedule interview via portal. You can choose platform (phone, Zoom). Have a conversation with student.
- e. Submit brief written summary that provides details supported by conversation (e.g., student's interests, why they are interested in Penn)
- f. Need Penn key. Monica's team can assist.

ii. Questions:

1. Ernest: My grandson is interested in applying to Penn. How can he request an interview?
 - a. Monica: applicants not able to request interviews because they are scheduled based on alumni availability. He may be contacted for an interview, but if not contacted, it is nothing to worry about because they are not required.
2. George: how many applicants offered an interview, and they decline?
 - a. Monica: not sure. Would need to take a look at data.
 - b. Matt: I would say I have seen it once out of the 25 students on my list.
 - c. Eric: I have seen it a couple times. I do about 10 per year.
 - d. Monica: 55,000 applicants last year. Used to be able to get 90% of applicants an interview, but with application spike, we haven't had that rate.
 - e. George: how many through early decision?
 - i. Monica: off top of head, 98% of early decision offered an interview. 70% for regular decision. Declining an interview is noted in application file, but we stress that it does not affect their admission

- f. Eric: Always better for an engineering alum to speak to an engineering applicant. Can be stressful for applicants because it may be their first interview experience. I try to explain that the interview doesn't make/break admission decision. Virtual loses a little bit, but more convenient.
- g. Bernard: interview all applicant levels, PhD?
 - i. Monica: just undergrad. All graduates eligible to interview an applicant unless you are a college counselor or have a child that is a senior in High School.
 - ii. Bernard: where greatest needs?
 - 1. Monica: anywhere. We will take any engineer that wants to help. The AI and Nets programs had their own committee at one point. Our goal is to have as many engineering applicants interviewed by engineering alum.
 - iii. Bernard: how do you select high schools to go to?
 - 1. Monica: for admissions recruitment, admissions department decides. We don't really look at high school, looking to reach as many students as possible.
 - iv. Eric: one thing I have heard is to not offer students in one high school an interview and not others in that school to avoid them reading too much into it.
 - 1. Monica: mattered more pre all-virtual. Committees will see applicants from many high schools and not based on region
 - v. Bob: best contact for reinstating Penn Key?
 - 1. Monica: we can help with that. You can email:
 - a. intprog@dev.upenn.edu
 - b. www.alumni.upenn.edu/interviews-join
 - vi. Bernard: I am sure that you will get a lot of applicants! Thank you for the great presentation! Ok to share slides?

1. Monica: yes, but I will clean them up first

c. Meet the Board S. Bhat

i. Sandeep has a family commitment and can't attend

VII. **Around the Table**

All

a. Eric: so grateful to have Monica present. Very honored to have her join. I hope we will have some new engineering volunteers to interview.

b. Jim: nothing to add

c. Bob: meeting format is different now than when we had in person meetings for faculty speakers. Maybe we can have a speaker present via Zoom with a broad topic, we have so many excellent speakers (School of Design and Engineering). Speaker from Feb 2018, Konrad Kording has been doing a lot of great work and can be seen on Penn Today. Maybe Ernest and I can review speaker candidates

i. Bernard: Yes, I think it is very nice to have if we can arrange it. I really enjoy the Meet the Board and speakers.

d. Seville: nothing to add. Great presentation from Monica. Thank you, Monica! And thank you Bernard for inviting Monica!

i. Bernard: we need to thank Eric!

e. Matt: nothing to add

f. Jay: nothing to add, thanks everyone and Monica for the great presentation

i. Bernard: did I miss anything about the board game.

ii. Jay: haven't sent it out

g. Brad: if you are on the west coast or in NYC on November 1st, looking forward to seeing everyone at Homecoming

h. Jason: I have been interviewing for years. It is a great experience. I am sorry for missing last few calls. I am a west coaster now (LA) and am happy to help with anything going on out here.

i. Bernard: yes we appreciate that and can use the support in driving membership

i. Lyle: nothing, thanks

j. Kush: all good, thanks for the presentation

k. Ernest: thank you for the presentation. I learned a lot. Good meeting, Bernard!

l. George: nothing to add. Thank you to Monica and Bernard

m. Yijie: question - can we post advertising for recruiting interviewers?

- i. Eric: yes, advertise any way we can
 - ii. Monica: yes, we have samples and graphics to share for social media. Happy to share them
- n. Lauren: nothing to add, looking forward to Homecoming
- o. Carl: able to register for homecoming. I have done interviewing before, but it was a long time ago (it was in paper forms)
- p. Marion: I used to do interview, and I loved it. Would I be an asset at my age for interviewing?
 - i. Matt: absolutely! Your story and involvement with the University is epic!
 - ii. Ernest: You can do it!
- q. Monica: Marion, we would love to have your participation if available. For all the interviewers on the call - we appreciate it. Thrilled to be here and thank you! Reach out with questions.
- r. Bob: great presentation, thank you! I was interviewed in 1955, eventually decided to go to Moore School because high school friend switched from EE to pre-med, lots of engineers went pre-med then
- s. Bernard: Lauren, do you want to present next month? Or push everyone one month?
 - i. Lauren: January better than fall, but can make it work too if needed.
 - ii. Bernard: I will put you down for January and follow up with Sandeep. I will send out Monica's slides when ready. I will send out follow up emails to committees and appreciate everyone being proactive. Let me know if you have any questions, and looking forward to seeing everyone at Homecoming!

VIII. **Adjourn**

B. Jones

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2022 from (6:00pm to 7:00pm)

Minutes prepared by Jon Lombardo