

**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, January 10, 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		Dawn Becket	V	Jason Bethala	
Associate Dean David Meaney		Jim Brennan	V	Sandeep Bhat	V
Jay Olman - Pres.	V	Lyle Brunhofer	V	Ed Chan	
Carl Clyde - VP		Jonathan Dunsay		Parth Chopra	
Lauren Hedvat - VP	V	Yijie Hu	V	Lamis Elawah	V
Jonathan Lombardo - VP	V	Ramsey Kraya	V	David Goldstein	
Bernard Jones – Sec.	V	Paul McLaughlin	V	Patricia He	
Robert Berkovits – Tres.	V	Kush Mehta		Scott Levitt	
		Jeffrey Ng	V	George Lin	
<b><i>Past Presidents:</i></b>		Jason Rifkin		William McGill	
Brad Abrams		Craig Schorr	V	Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos	
Eric Benshetler	V	Heather Stern		Aastha Puri	
Tim Carlsen				Manasi Puri	
Farnia Fresnel		<b><i>Associate Directors:</i></b>		Amrita Singh	V
Marion Hubing	V	Ernest Churchville	V	Aditya Sreekumar	
Walter Korn		Qi Fang		Kevin Turik	
Matt Quale	V	Ryan Wade	V		
Harris Romanoff				<b><i>Guests:</i></b>	
Seville Mannickarottu	V			Ken Chen	
				Emily Miller	
				Sushmitha Yarrabothula	
<b><i>Faculty/Staff:</i></b>				Shira Rieke	
Jamie Grant	V			Michaile Rainey	
George Hain	V			Wendy Sandinsky	
Brad Richards	V			Ricky Rajani	V
				Chase Bender	V

X=In-person T=Telephone V=Virtual

**I. Call to Order (J. Olman)**

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

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

**J. Olman**

- a) Greetings everyone, hopefully everyone had a good holiday  
b) This will be my last semester in this role, but I think it will be interesting.  
c) Many folks may have thought we'd be back to regular meetings by now, but we'll continue to make do and take things as they come

**III. Development Office Report**

**G. Hain**

- a) George – In-person classes have been delayed two weeks
- Classes will resume virtually
  - Hopefully things will be back to normal soon
  - We are about half way to the donation goal
    - We should be able to reach our donation goal by June
    - We are right at a normal goal point for this time of year
  - We are ahead of the annual giving goal
    - 1440 donors this year, also up over two prior years
  - Vagelos Engineering Building
    - It will become an intersection of UPenn Medicine and UPenn Engineering
    - Marion – Is it like Jefferson?
      - No, this is from a research standpoint wrt combining faculty
  - Seville – Do you know anything about the construction on DRL?
    - No, it's getting another face lift, but it's not being destroyed
  - Brad – Any updates on the February challenge?
    - Mother of all challenges; 500 donors during the month of February
    - 3 years ago we had 100 donors
    - If we reach the 500 donor goal, we will receive an additional donation of \$50k
    - Please donate as close to February first as possible
    - Currently, Seville, Matt, and Lauren will be leaders for the February Challenge effort

**IV. Career Services Report**

**J. Grant**

- a) I was on medical leave during December  
b) Career fair schedule link: <https://careerservices.upenn.edu/career-fairs/>  
c) Everything for the foreseeable future will be virtual
  - Matt – Many other organizations are dealing with similar challenges
    - I'm not even allowed on campus more than one day a week

d) Seville – Has the great resignation wave impacted offers for students?

  - It has impacted primarily Master's degree students

- Matt – There will be a trickle down effect since most folks leaving are 5-10 years plus experience, which are more difficult to fill
- e) Jaimie – How do students develop relationships with colleagues when they aren't working with others?
- f) Brad – Are internships going away because they can't be hosted?
  - There is more of an acceptance for hybrid roles
- g) Jay – To what extent should alumni be reaching out to career services?
  - We encourage anyone to reach out
  - Any alumni can have a handshake account
    - This is for life
    - Primarily for current and recent graduates, but open to all alumni

#### V. Old Business:

- a) Approval of November 15, 2021 Minutes **Directors**
  - Jay – I have one thought regarding the attendance sheet, it is due for an update to at-large from guest section when they have been supporting meetings regularly
  - Minutes approved
- b) Open Action Item Review **B. Jones**
  - No open Action Items

#### VI. New Business:

- a) AWE **D. Becket**
  - Student engagement and AWE – We typically reach out to Michaile Rainey, but we haven't heard back yet
    - It's not likely we'll connect in near future
  - The board had many questions about general diversity initiatives at UPenn; Dr Stubbs was often recommended as a POC
    - The best way forward may be to reach out to Dr. Stubbs
      - Jay knows Dr. Stubbs, and will reach out to get things moving forward
    - Class of '79 – Dr. Stubbs is an Penn Engineering alumni
    - **Action Item – Jay reach out to Dr. Stubbs**
- b) Yarnall Award **J. Brennan**
  - Jay – What is the timeline for Yarnall Award this year?

- Last year we presented it at the Board of Advisors Spring Meeting
- Jim – We received candidates today
  - The selection process should come to a conclusion by April
- Brad – We have a current award winner; the award will be presented on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2022
- Then, 2022 will be spent selecting the next candidate to receive the award in early 2023
- Jay – Is there a need for more help on the committee?
  - Yes, a couple more would be helpful

c) Senior Design

**L. Brunhofer**

- Jay – Is there a plan to conduct the Senior Design Competition as we did last year?
  - With classes in their current setting, is it better to conduct it the same way
- Brad – I worked with Associate Dean David Meaney
  - We can engage alums virtually who are located at a distance, but there will still be an in-person element
  - At this point, we've agreed the video element was a good part of encapsulation
    - We are working with all six departments
    - We will have a video judging component on Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>
    - April 29<sup>th</sup> be the in-person presentation portion
    - In-person is the default mode, but we are going to try to do both
  - The same scoring matrix will be used again
  - First place in the Senior Design Competition will win the Hamlyn Symposium Prize
    - <https://beblog.seas.upenn.edu/penn-bioengineering-senior-design-team-wins-hamlyn-symposium-prize/>

d) Spring 2022 Goals

**J. Olman and All**

- Jay – I want to open the floor to a discussion of things we may also want to accomplish this semester

e) Meet the Board

**J. Olman**

- Jay – We had a discussion during the last meeting about Carl nominating Brad to present this week, but we should probably start with alumni prior to staff
- No one volunteered, so Jay will present
  - [Reference Jay's presentation]
  - I still consider myself a mid-westerner despite having lived in Philadelphia a number of years
  - I graduated in 2008, right before the recession
  - Took a job in Iowa, but had little to do and got laid off
  - Took job with start-up in Philadelphia designing the Pocket Grill
    - Sold Pocket Grill all over the world, but only sold hundreds, not thousands
  - Worked at another start-up called RJ Metrics
  - Now working at Kepler Marketing Agency on the data science team conducting data analytics
  - Was a guest on Jeopardy
    - Question: FAMOUS PAIRS \$200: A bank employee paying out money at the counter & a common name for a university in west Philly
  - Member of the Learned League, which is a head to head trivia competition

**VII. Around the Table**

**All**

- a) Seville – Great meeting and great to know more about you Jay
- b) Matt volunteers to present 'Meeting the Board' at next meeting
- c) Jim – I enjoyed your presentation
- d) Sandeep – Get pocketgrill.com, it's available
- e) Lamis – It was nice to hear about post recession experience and compare it to post COVID experience
- f) Ernest – The calculus book is going well, writing it on my phone
- g) Chase Bender – First time meeting attendee, pleasantly surprised, looking forward to learning more about what this group does and helping out

**VIII. Adjourn**

**J. Olman**

- a) Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm

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

Minutes prepared by Bernard Jones.