

**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, March 7, 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		Sandeep Bhat	V
Jay Olman - Pres.	V	Lyle Brunhofer	V	Ed Chan	
Carl Clyde - VP	V	Jonathan Dunsay	V	Parth Chopra	
Lauren Hedvat - VP		Yijie Hu	V	Lamis Elsayah	
Jonathan Lombardo - VP		Ramsey Kraya	V	David Goldstein	
Bernard Jones – Sec.	V	Paul McLaughlin	V	Patricia He	
Robert Berkovits – Tres.	V	Kush Mehta		Scott Levitt	
		Jeffrey Ng		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	
Marion Hubing	V	Ernest Churchville	V	Aditya Sreekumar	
Walter Korn		Qi Fang		Kevin Turik	
Matt Quale	V	Ryan Wade		<b><i>Guests:</i></b>	
Harris Romanoff				Ken Chen	
Sevile Mannickarottu	V			Emily Miller	
				Jackie Moriniere	V
				Sushmitha Yarrabothula	
<b><i>Faculty/Staff:</i></b>				Shira Rieke	
Jamie Grant	V			Michaile Rainey	
George Hain	V			Wendy Sandinsky	
Brad Richards				Ricky Rajani	
				Chase Bender	V

X=In-person T=Telephone V=Virtual

- I. Call to Order (J. Olman)** **J. Olman**
- a) Meeting called to order at 6:05pm
- II. President's Welcome & Remarks** **J. Olman**
- a) Welcome everyone  
b) Welcome Jackie for the first time  
c) I have been distracted by the Ukraine stuff
- III. Development Office Report** **G. Hain**
- a) February challenge – I want to thank Seville, Matt, and Lauren for being leaders of the February Challenge effort  
b) We passed our magic number and had a total of 573 donors  
c) Last 3 days we got over 100 donors  
d) We even broke the webpage  
e) We will receive a bonus donation for reaching the February Challenge donors goal  
f) We did well with China fund raising committee  
g) Confident we will reach the annual donation goal  
h) The Data Science Building, now known as Amy Gutmann Hall, is doing well with fundraising  
i) Seville – Any thoughts on how the new president will affect developments in your office?  
    ■ No, but Dean Vijay Kumar says she'll do well  
    ■ Alumni are happy to get someone with an Upper-Midwest background  
j) Jay – Reading Brads Notes:  
    ■ March 10<sup>th</sup> alumni event in India with panels on crypto and block-chain  
    ■ Yarnall Award presentation will be on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Board of Advisors meeting  
        ● I will be there to present the award to last years winner  
    ■ Senior Design Competition  
        ● Virtual pre-judging April 25-28  
        ● In-person judging on April 29<sup>th</sup>  
            ■ Please attend in person to revive this great tradition  
        ● Earnest – Will there be a Zoom meeting link made available?  
    ■ Alumni Weekend will be on May 14<sup>th</sup>  
        ● The parade will be at noon  
        ● The engineering tent will NOT be on College Green this year, it will be by Hill House  
        ● There will be a presentation Dean Vijay Kumar
- IV. Career Services Report** **J. Grant**
- a) Happy to report Career Services has recently gone through some administrative changes  
b) We have a Director of Undergraduate Initiatives and a Director of Graduate Initiatives

- Their goal is to establish consistency across the schools
- c) My friend and colleague Jackie is joining us tonight
  - Jackie – I joined Career Services 5 months ago
    - Attended Swarthmore, but took classes at UPenn
    - Ukraine is also heavy on my heart; I took Russian in school
      - Jaimie – Jackie was also a Fulbright Scholar and lived in Russia
    - Prior to Career fair, we had a Pre-DEI event
    - Penn Engineering Mentoring Program:
      - We are in the process of brainstorming this new “normal”...to reimagine, and even broaden, what this Program will look like
      - We will be holding two Engineering Alumni panels at the end of March
        - (a) Networking and DEI
        - Google form: AMS (Alumni Mentoring Series) - <https://forms.gle/gFrE9obPWe8dSgd26>
  - George – Are the only mentoring opportunities on the panels
    - Yes, but we are hoping to expand it
  - Other happy news, under Outcomes; the class of 2021 outgoing reports was just published
    - Links to post-graduate outcomes reports: <https://careerservices.upenn.edu/post-graduate-outcomes/>
    - Above average across UPenn
    - Technology, Consulting, and Finance are top triad
    - Have one of the lowest still seeking rates, which is excellent consider the job climate
  - Sandeep – My employer was a sponsor of one of the events
  - I’ll be attending some meetings about new hiring trends for upcoming year
  - Jay – Question for Jackie, is this a form for alumni to participate or mentor?
    - It’s a form for participation
  - Jay – What is the deadline to submit the form?
    - ASAP; the upcoming events are during the last two weeks in March

- Feel free to fill out the form just to show interest though

**V. Old Business:**

- a) Approval of January 10, 2020 Minutes **Directors**
- Minutes approved
- b) Open Action Item Review **B. Jones**
- Jay to Contact Dr. Stubbs
    - I have reached out to her, but she is currently OOO
    - I'm awaiting a response

**VI. New Business:**

- a) Yarnall Award **J. Brennan**
- Jim not present
  - Carl – We gave Jim the top 5 candidate, so Jim should be scheduling a meeting this month
  - Seville – When will this award be given?
    - Next year during Spring 2023
- b) Senior Design **L. Brunhofer**
- Lyle – We are working the timeline that we discussed with Brad as you mentioned during the start of the meeting
    - Will likely consist of one mass email to the judges
    - We may not offer a remote video link to alumni who live in the area so we maximize the number of in-person judges
    - In-person judging and pre-judging will both take place
  - Jay - Will there be a live broadcast of the event as Ernest asked earlier?
    - We have not done that in the past, but we can discuss it as we get closer to the event
- c) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion **J. Olman**
- As I mentioned earlier, I finally reached out to Dr. Stubbs; hopefully we will have more to discuss about her at a future meeting
  - Saw a talk by Joseph Bordogna where Dr. Gilda Barabino had a presentation about DEI in the field of engineering
    - <https://events.seas.upenn.edu/event/joseph-bordogna-forum-with-dr-gilda-barabino/>
    - She discussed what we need to do to make the engineering community more diverse, like the broader community

- Are there recordings of the event?
  - Dawn - There are recordings; they might be available to everyone on YouTube
- Jay – Engineering tends to be social
  - Science is really about discovering things for people by using the scientific method
  - Matt - The film “Picture a Scientist” was an amazing look at some of the forces at work. Not sure how to get access to it (we had access through work), but it is worth seeking out.
  - Dawn – Good presentation for anyone not familiar with DEI
    - One example is how diverse groups perform better than non-diverse groups
    - How could this model be turned into something EASB could be more involved in?
    - For example, the letter that goes out to welcome alumni after graduation; how could we perpetuate that process?
    - How do we get more people to know about it?
    - Matt - Great idea Dawn - we could use our networks (AWE, for example) to follow-up on the letter - a way to personalize it for our underrepresented alumni groups.
    - Sandeep - This is more of just a curious question (not necessarily needed to answer here/now): what is the global population of living alumni from Penn SEAS? Interested in knowing how large is the constituency.
      - (a) George – I worry more about mailable / sociable, but it’s perhaps 12k-20k
    - Jay – It should be normal that ordinary motivated people should join

d) Meet the Board

**Matt. Quale**

- [See Slides]
- Born in Idaho
- Dad was in US Navy nuclear research
- Then moved to VA Beach
- Enjoyed soccer
- IT computer administrator

- Went to Governors School at William & Mary
- Lived in Kings Court and created the Environmental Studies Floor
- Use to play street hockey near dorm
- Competed in Senior Design Competition in 1998 as a group of two
- Graduated in 1998, married two weeks after that and started at Mobil Oil
- Then worked for Rodel, Rohm and Hass, and now Dow
- Wife runs her own business
- Two amazing daughters and dog Venus
- Jay - How do you pronounce your last name pronounced?
  - Quali as in quality, it's Scandinavian
- Seville – Is your job as fun as Shark Tank?
  - More fun, because it's not my money
- Bob – When you setup Environment Studies, did you pursue Environmental Engineering studies?
  - Yes, took one graduate course, but it was more about bringing in speakers and enriching the students' education
- Matt picked Yijie to present at the next meeting
  - Yijie - Sure, I will participate next meeting

**VII. Around the Table**

**All**

- a) Ernest – Great presentation Matt
- b) Yijie – Very good meeting and this is a great opportunity to meet other members
- c) Sandeep – I was very endearing that you calculated things during your presentation by the age of your children
- d) Jon – Apologies for mispronouncing your last name Matt and I looking forward to the Senior Design Competition email
- e) George – Great February Challenge and thanks for excellent support from Seville, Matt, and Lauren
- f) Carl – I never knew about the correct pronunciation of Matt's last name
- g) Marion – I found an article in the Phoenixville Patch; based on an index of admission rates and SAT scores, UPenn is the top school in Pennsylvania
  - Only 9% of applicants are accepted
  - Minimum SAT of 1505 out of 1600
  - Dawn – Engineering is even harder to get into

- h) Bob – Will we do a guest speaker prior to returning to in-person meetings?
  - Jay – not likely anytime soon
- i) Eric – I attended the Dr. Bordogna lecture; it was a great presentation
  - Jackie seems like a great addition to the Career Office
- j) Chase – Good luck in your first soccer game Matt

**VIII. Adjourn**

**J. Olman**

- a) Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm

***The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2022 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Virtual Only***

Minutes prepared by Bernard Jones.