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

Monday, January 9, 2023 6pm, Virtual Only

**Attendees:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Executive:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Directors:</strong></th>
<th><strong>At-Large Members:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Dean Vijay Kumar</td>
<td>Yijie Hu</td>
<td>V Jason Bethala</td>
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<td>Associate Dean David Meaney</td>
<td>Ramsey Kraya</td>
<td>V Ed Chan</td>
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<td>Bernard Jones - Pres.</td>
<td>V Ernest Churchville</td>
<td>V Parth Chopra</td>
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<td>Dawn Becket - VP</td>
<td>V Robert Berkovits</td>
<td>V David Goldstein</td>
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<td>Lyle Brunhofer - VP</td>
<td>V Jim Brennan</td>
<td>V Scott Levitt</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Ng - VP</td>
<td>V Carl Clyde</td>
<td>V George Lin</td>
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<td>Jonathan Lombardo – Sec.</td>
<td>V Jonathan Dunsay</td>
<td>V William McGill</td>
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<td>Jason Rifkin – Tres.</td>
<td>Lamis Elsawah</td>
<td>V Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos</td>
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**Past Presidents:**

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<td>Lauren Hedvat</td>
<td>V Aastha Puri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brad Abrams</td>
<td>V Manasi Puri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Benshetler</td>
<td>V Aditya Sreekumar</td>
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<td>Tim Carlsen</td>
<td>Ryan Wade</td>
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<td>Farnia Fresnel</td>
<td>V Kevin Turik</td>
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<td>Marion Hubing</td>
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<td>Walter Korn</td>
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**Guests:**

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<td>Harris Romanoff</td>
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**Faculty/Staff:**

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<td>Shira Rieke</td>
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**Associate Directors:**

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<tr>
<td>Michaile Rainey</td>
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<td>Sandeep Bhat</td>
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<td>Patricia Z. He</td>
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<td>Kush Mehta</td>
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<td>Craig Schorr</td>
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**Amrita Singh**
I. Call to Order
   a. Meeting called to order at 6:04pm

II. President's Welcome & Remarks
   a. Bernard: I hope everyone had a happy and safe New Year! I was in Time Square in the days leading up to the New Year
   b. Had a meeting with Kush for EDAB to discuss maintaining an alumni mentorship pipeline
   c. Emails exchanged with Ernest and Bob for speakers in March, April, May timeframe. Several interesting potential speakers for possibly our next meeting.

III. Development Office Report
   a. George is in India
   b. Brad: we are continuing to trend very well with our financial goals. George and Vijay were in India, and now they are in Singapore. Will be back at end of next week.

IV. Career Services Report
   a. Jamie: also in Times Square for New Years! Well underway for our planning (https://careerservices.upenn.edu/career-fairs/). First event is spring career and internship fair for undergrads and grad students. Many employers holding back on commitments, delaying start dates. Layoffs in industry affecting hiring here. I am co-chairing STEM fair. Working with People Growth pilot for training and mentoring program, looking to build pipeline for mentorship.
   b. Sevile – how does this work with current mentoring program?
      i. Jamie: this is a reboot (e.g., a 2.0 of current program). This framework could be used for other similar programs

V. Old Business:
   a. Approval of prior EASB Meeting Minutes Directors
      i. November Minutes – Minutes Approved
   b. Open Action Item Review J. Lombardo
      i. None
   c. Dawn:
      i. AWE update: Lamis and I reached out to Michelle a number of times in first semester. Nothing coming together yet. In past, if no events, considered hand selecting individuals identified as active seniors that may want to remain active. Normally, we have events, and those events automatically introduce us to those interested in AWE. Does this make sense, and if so, what route to
take (e.g., meet president, learn about Board, attend a meeting to see what is involved)?

1. Bernard: Any way to get candidates on our radar would make sense to me.
2. Dawn: In past, would need to identify people staying local. Now that is less important. I can review people with you, Bernard.
3. Lamis: I can reach out to engineers that I know. Did Michelle respond to us? I agree with your idea.
4. Dawn: Michelle may be busy. We would like to set up a Zoom meeting. Will keep trying. Thinking this may be a Plan B, which can help us at least get moving by end of year and contact engaged seniors.
5. Bernard: feel free to involve me in any way I can help.
6. Jay: in the past it has been difficult to get new alumni to get involved immediately.

VI. New Business:

a. Regional Meetings/Updates

i. Brad:

1. Two dates to key in on:
   a. Friday April 28th – in person Senior Design
   b. Saturday May 13th – Alumni weekend
2. Regional outreach: several events in the works – Seattle in March, Boston in April, NY in May, and the Bay Area in June. Also looking at Philadelphia and Central NJ (will discuss central NJ with Sandeep)
   a. Looking for any feedback from you all

ii. Bernard: any tentative dates?

1. Brad: in flux. Trying to nail down faculty
   a. June 7, 8, or 9 for Bay Area. Will be coming out there with online learning staff to engage our online learning alumni (similar to what we did in Seattle). Goal is to engage our online communities, which are growing very quickly. We want to connect them with greater alumni group
b. Bernard: sounds fantastic. We also discussed having a regional Board meeting with a slightly different timing. Maybe there would be interested in being brought into the fold.
   i. Brad: yes, I hope we can consider different timing to accommodate alumni in different time zones

2. Brad: working to bring Associate Dean level faculty to these events
3. Sevile: Brad – will we be able to restart Board appreciation events?
   a. Brad: if this is something folks want, let’s discuss and report back next meeting.
   i. Bernard: yes, open an Action Item for this

b. Bernard: any other comments on Senior Design, Yarnall award?
   i. Jim: as far as I know, we are all set.
      1. Brad: Yes, all set. thanks to Jim and his committee. Also, last week of April for virtual Senior Design judging

c. Bernard: Also, I know a number of you have reached out about interviews. Anyone have comments or thoughts on that? (No comments.)

d. Meet the Board
   
   i. Grew up in north NJ outside NYC. Enjoyed Penn so much, added an Econ degree to my Systems Engineering degree. Six great years. Spent time as a grad assistant in Quad.
   
   ii. Had a very interesting time early in my career on Wall Street working in mortgage backed securities. Started at Lehman Brothers.
   
   iii. Went to Deutsche Bank then back to Barclays.
   
   iv. Engineering entrepreneurship was what interested me though.
   
   v. Quit without a plan for first time in career (COVID disrupted travel plans)
   
   vi. DP wrote an article about my challah bread company (Noosh Kneads (www.nooshkneads.com)) which is now my side hustle (https://www.thedp.com/article/2022/09/banker-baker-laurenhedvat)
   
   vii. Introduced to Nitra last summer. Young, fun company. In the Freedom Tower with amazing view
   
   viii. Other interests – Penn is very important to me. Was on ACLC Board for 15 years. Appointed last year to TCPW, which has been great. Also involved in Manhattan based activities. Love tennis – going to the US Open with my
family is a tradition. Love classical music – I live near the Lincoln Center and play piano. Love Legos – got more interested during quarantine

VII. **Around the Table**

All

a. Bernard: from Homecoming weekend, there were some photos taken. Should I send them to Jeffrey?
   
   i. Jeffrey: Yes
   
   ii. Bernard: meeting minutes too?
       
       1. Yes, good through last meeting. Will add most recent

b. Jeffrey: went skiing

c. Sevile: was great, great to be back.

d. Ernest: holiday was good. Spent time with wife and children. Now subbing at all Springfield Township elementary, middle, and high schools teaching all subjects and grades. Very busy! Book is going well too! Happy New Year everyone

e. Jon Dunsay: was good. looking forward to next meeting

f. Brad: great New Year. nothing else from me.

g. Jamie: had a great new year and things going well. Excited for busy spring!

h. Jay: nothing specific to add, great presentation Lauren! Thanks to Ryan for coming up with this idea!

   i. Ryan: rocking my 16-month daughter to sleep during that presentation. Wife sick with whooping cough, but everyone on the mend now.

j. Lamis: went out in NYC on New Year’s Eve but left before ball dropped.

k. Lauren: Thanks everyone for listening and it was great to speak today!

l. Sandeep: I am at a high school wrestling match now. Happy New Year folks!

m. Paul: Happy New Year everyone! Got a new puppy right before Christmas

n. Yijie: Went to fireworks on waterfront. Very good presentation!

o. Wendy: I am in Philadelphia now, but spent New Years in Boca Raton FL. Did champagne fountain! Great to be back with group.

p. Eric: spent New Years with friends. I am teaching Econ starting tomorrow. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year!

q. Matt: Happy New Year everyone! Thanks, Lauren for the great presentation!

r. Carl: great holiday, despite retiring from the Mummers, spent time in town for the holiday.

s. Jon: holiday was good! Happy New Year everyone
t. Bob: Happy New Year everyone! Almost went to Florida, but it was cold down there.
   For speakers there is Professor Bassett working with quantum computing. Professor
   Megan Ryerson is also a good candidate
u. Lyle: Love helping out with Senior Design. Definitely excited for in person part
v. Dawn: Happy New Year everyone. For New Year holiday went to Central Park
w. Marion: Lauren - loved your presentation! My New Years was quiet! Looking forward
to working with the Board this year!
x. Bob: for chemical engineers saw a note about MIT solving 99% of micro-plastic
   problem! Saw it online.

VIII. Adjourn                                             B. Jones
      a. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2023 from (6:00pm to 7:00pm)

Minutes prepared by Jon Lombardo