

# 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, July 17, 2023, 6pm

Room 221 of Singh Center (in-person optional)

<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/4128897763>

## Attendees:

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

X=In-person T=Telephone V=Virtual

- I. Call to Order** **B. Jones**
- a. Meeting called to order at 6:06pm
- II. President's Welcome & Remarks** **B. Jones**
- a. Bernard:
- i. Alumni weekend was a wonderful event. Jay was presented an award
  - ii. Looking to transition back to more in person meetings.
- III. Development Office Report** **G. Hain**
- a. George:
- i. I'm in Burlingame, CA
  - ii. We had a great year:
    - 1. Still counting, but we will be over goal!
    - 2. Scholarship led the way
    - 3. Good year in Capital as well
    - 4. Still raising money for Vagelos Building and Amy Gutman Hall
    - 5. Great year in terms of faculty support
    - 6. Bring in more money each year from corporations for research
    - 7. Will set another record for donors for annual giving
  - iii. Thank you to Seville, Matt, and Lauren for effort on February Challenge
  - iv. Coming year goals even higher, so we are optimistic
- IV. Career Services Report** **J. Grant**
- a. Jamie:
- i. Looking post grad outcomes of class of 2023
  - ii. September 11<sup>th</sup> virtual career fair
  - iii. On-campus career fair September 12<sup>th</sup>
  - iv. End of September Bioscience career fair
  - v. Seeing a pullback in big 3 industries for hiring and fair participation:  
investment banks, consulting, technology companies
    - 1. Some companies have changed their deadlines
    - 2. But many other organizations participating in career fairs, so very happy with how the fairs are shaping up
- V. Old Business:**
- a. Approval of prior EASB Meeting Minutes **Directors**
- i. May Meeting Minutes Approved

b. Open Action Item Review

**J. Lombardo**

i. No Open Action Items - None

VI. **New Business:**

a. 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule

**B. Jones /B. Richards**

i. Bernard:

1. Transitioning to fewer meetings
  - a. Roughly one per quarter
  - b. Want more focus/content, just fewer in quantity
  - c. This is a draft schedule that I worked on with Brad
  - d. Voluntary meetings in other regions could be scheduled
  - e. Senior Design is April 26, 2024, so I will update that on schedule
2. I want to emphasize and point out that this schedule does not restrict committee meetings
3. This of course is up for approval and discussion

ii. Robert:

1. January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting can sometimes be problematic with weather
2. Bernard: good point. The December – February meetings can be tough with the weather, but we also have blizzards in March
  - a. I don't want to wait too long between September meeting and next meeting
3. Brad: in person aspect can be game-time decision
4. Robert: Alumni Board dinner is a moving target
5. Sandeep: I am fine with this. But outside of bad weather date(s), maybe we should establish backup dates (e.g., the week after)
6. Bernard: I will add an asterisk that indicates the meeting is automatically a Zoom only meeting

iii. Seville: need six meetings per bylaws (four shown on schedule), but Homecoming, dinners, etc. can count towards the additional two meetings we need

1. Jay: Per bylaws, need eight members for a quorum, so that would establish it as a meeting
2. Eric: I am ok with it, but we may need to review the bylaws
3. Robert: can have a room reserved at an event such as Homecoming to have a Board meeting beforehand

iv. Bernard: the calendar that I am presenting will be the schedule, but then we will have a committee to review and propose changes to the bylaws as needed. Always OK to attend via Zoom, and in-person will never be required.

In bad weather, we will meet via Zoom. These dates consider holidays, the academic calendar, etc.

- v. Brad: these dates consider the academic calendar. The gaps between meeting may look weird (e.g., start in September and then meet next in January), but these dates take into account school breaks, exams, etc.
- vi. Jay: I think more meetings may move things along. I don't think we need meeting just for that purpose, but we should discuss ways to keep committees moving along
  - 1. Bernard: I agree. If we keep this schedule as the official meeting, maybe we have every other month committee meetings. We can even count them as "meetings" if we have a quorum
    - a. Brad: we can create Slack channels
  - 2. Bernard: we can definitely improve our communication of information to help improve the flow of information through the committees
- vii. Bernard: anyone else have a September 11<sup>th</sup> conflict besides Jamie? (No one)
  - 1. Let's keep September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - 2. Sandeep and Kush are the next Meet the Board speakers
  - 3. Meetings may have more content if outside channels are used by committees to make progress

b. Committees – areas of focus:

**B. Jones**

i. Engaging Students

- 1. Bernard: I think we should focus on our core committees, keep the successful ones. Should we keep these?
- 2. Senior Design Competition
  - a. Bernard: this includes coordinating, setting up event
  - b. Committee: Lyle, Eric, Ernest, Kush
    - i. Chair: Lyle
- 3. Mentoring/Externship:
  - a. Bernard: looking to have some type of direct mentorship program. Would work with career services.
    - i. Jamie: We have the People Grow program which is doing well
  - b. Committee: Paul, Jamie, Sandeep, Kush, Archit, Aalok (Graduate Perspective), Ryan Wade (PhD perspective), Emily (People Grow point of contact)
    - i. Chair: Paul
- 4. Insider's Guide Panel:
  - a. Bernard: not sure what happened with this one.

- b. Brad: not held since pandemic, but was well received at the time
- c. Committee: Lauren (?), Lamis (?)
  - i. Chair: Lauren (?)

5. EDAB and ESAC Engagement:

- a. Kush: does it make sense to combine this with Mentorship/Externship? Mentorship is their goal.
- b. Jamie: yes, that makes a lot of sense
- c. Jay: do we want EDAB and ESAC as seeing EAS as a mentorship resource?
- d. Kush: yes, they see EAS that way. But they have their own mandates and would want to meet separately.
- e. Archit: Short term EDAB and ESAC are interested in good mentorship. I think combining these committees in the short term is a good idea, and then maybe reevaluate in a year.
- f. Paul: what about the externship aspect? There are different targets for these
- g. Seville: I think these sound like two different committees
- h. Jay: I am concerned if the students are thinking of us as a mentorship group and the branding resulting from that
- i. Brad: I think we want to support the solution chosen by the school (People Growth) and direct them to that rather than have this be duplicative
- j. Jamie: Within People Growth, individuals can connect directly to a mentor or be part of a program
- k. Bernard: we should use this committee and allow them to re-write the responsibilities for both groups or re-write them as one group
- l. Aalok: graduate/undergraduate needs very different

ii. Engaging Alumni

- 1. Regional Engineering Alumni: Philly, Penn Club Philly, EAS
  - a. Primary focus on this one is Philadelphia region, including south NJ
  - b. Committee: Dunsay, Lombardo, Jones, Sandeep, Farnia (Penn Club Philly ?)
    - i. Chair: Jon^2
- 2. Regional Engineering Alumni: NYC
  - a. Committee: Dawn, Archit, Lauren (?)
    - i. Chair: Lauren (?)

- 3. Regional Engineering Alumni: Rest of World
    - a. Could be Boston, West Coast, international
      - i. Brad: I think “West Coast” for now is fine to keep conversation going.
        - 1. Our Boston event went well, but we have lost some of our Boston contacts
          - a. Helpful to have someone on the ground there
          - b. We should reach out to President of Hexagon and other similar groups as students graduate to encourage them to get involved wherever they go after graduating
        - 2. Bernard: great comments. At least we have the start of a committee
      - b. Committee: Aalok, Brad, Lamis(?)
        - i. Chair: (?)
4. Yarnall Award
  - a. Committee: Jim, Paul, Carl, Robert
    - i. Chair: Jim
5. AWE and SWE Engagement
  - a. Committee: Dawn
    - i. Chair: Dawn
- iii. Engaging the Board
  - 1. Back to Penn Engineering
    - a. Committee: Robert, Ernest
      - i. Chair: (?)
    - b. Bernard: Responsibilities combined with Speaker Series. We want to keep the topics current/relevant
      - i. We can discuss when to have these – before/after meetings, etc.
    - c. Robert: I have suggested speakers for speaker series with Ernest. Issue is trying to pick out the current areas
  - 2. Nominations
    - a. Committee: all Past Presidents
      - i. Chair: Jay (most recent Past President is always the Chair)
  - 3. Speaker Series

- a. Committee: Sandeep, Ernest, Robert
    - i. Chair: (?)
- iv. Communication
  - 1. EAS Website:
    - a. Committee: Jeff
      - i. Chair: Jeff
  - 2. Social Networking:
    - a. Committee: Yijie(?), Sandeep
      - i. Chair: Yijie(?)
  - 3. Multimedia Management
    - a. Continue as a committee? Eleni is the new marketing director
  - 4. EASB Intercommunication outside of list serve
    - a. Brad: this could facilitate our communications with EASB
    - b. Committee: Bernard, Jay
      - i. Chair: (?)
- v. Committees in Consideration
  - 1. Tech Talk
    - a. Bernard: this falls under the Speaker Series and can be combined with it
  - 2. Alumni Interview Program
    - a. Jay: appetite for this has fallen off
    - b. Eric: we probably do not need a committee. I can do a once a year recap since I am involved
    - c. Brad: the interview program is something every Penn Engineer Alum should know about
  - 3. Engineering Alumni Interview Newsletter
    - a. Bernard: In the past we didn't know if we had enough content. Maybe we can have something prepared at the end of the year to recap the year
    - b. Brad: it is tough because we don't want to be behind marketing (e.g., not be aware of upcoming announcements)
      - i. May need to involve Penn Engineering Marketing with Eleni
  - 4. Recruitment
    - a. Bernard: I don't think this needs to be a committee
    - b. Dawn: this can be a goal
  - 5. DEI

- a. Bernard: I know Jay was working in this area
  - b. Dawn: I am happy to help.
  - c. Brad: here, we are not taking on a program, but promoting programs
  - d. Committee: Jay, Dawn, Lamis (?)
    - i. Chair: Jay (?)
6. Governance:
- a. Bernard: this is one we definitely want to do
  - b. Committee: Bernard, Seville, Matt, Eric
    - i. Chair: Bernard

**VII. Around the Table**

**All**

- i. Jay: nothing. This was great; excited to be here!
- ii. Jon Dunsay: like new schedule; looking forward to a great year
- iii. Brad: did two Dean events with Dean Vijay Kumar. We were in SF and had 60 attendees; 75-80 attendees in Seattle. In Silicon Valley met with Google Alumni. Met 44 current students in Silicon Valley; they had been meeting virtually before that. So did a corporate and social events out there
- iv. Dawn: looking forward to good year
- v. Paul: no comments, thank you for a great meeting
- vi. Craig: everything sounds good. Thank you for a good meeting
- vii. Ernest: I have come full circle through Penn Engineering and through industry, and now substitute teaching K-12 in science and technology and helping students get to college. I find it very rewarding. You all do a fantastic job as alumni leaders. Thank you!
- viii. George: nothing, thank you for all of your good ideas!
- ix. Eric: looking forward to another good year!
- x. Jon Lombardo: thanks for a great meeting. looking forward to a good year.
- xi. Roberts: looking forward to reviewing the committee lists. I am in process to relocating in next 2-3 months. Thanks for great meeting.

**VIII. Adjourn**

**B. Jones**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm

***The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2023, from (6:00pm to 7:00pm)***

Minutes prepared by Jon Lombardo