

# 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, October 9, 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		Jim Brennan	V	David Goldstein	
Lyle Brunhofer - VP		Carl Clyde		Scott Levitt	
Jeffrey Ng - VP	V	Jonathan Dunsay	V	George Lin	
Jonathan Lombardo – Sec.	V	Lamis Elsayah	V	William McGill	
Yijie Hu – Tres.	V	Lauren Hedvat	V	Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos	
		Paul McLaughlin		Aastha Puri	
<b>Past Presidents:</b>		Ryan Wade	V	Manasi Puri	
Brad Abrams		Sandeep Bhat		Aditya Sreekumar	
Eric Benshetler	V	Kush Mehta	V	Kevin Turik	
Tim Carlsen					
Farnia Fresnel	V	<b>Guests:</b>			
Marion Hubing	V	Ken Chen			
Matt Quale		Emily Miller			
Harris Romanoff		Jackie Moriniere			
Seville Mannickarottu	V	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	V	Emily Parry	
Craig Schorr	V	Madeline Maurer		Monica Stepanow	
Amrita Singh		Archit Dhar			
		Aalok Thakkar	V		

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. Thank you for attending, and I apologize for the delay in the meeting.
- III. Development Office Report** **G. Hain**
  - a. George:
    - i. Not too much to report, but earlier in fiscal year, we easily surpassed goal last year, and hopefully will again this year.
    - ii. We are off to a good start
    - iii. We think the endowed faculty support goal will be met
      - 1. Does anyone know what an endowed professor is and why they are important?
        - a. Eric: Funds put into an endowment fund and used to pay a professor and fund their research
      - 2. Notification to rest of world that you a step above peers. Great value and needed to recruit/retain best faculty.
    - iv. Hopefully reach alumni giving goals as well
      - 1. Incredibly busy already. Dean Vijay Kumar and I just got back from San Francisco area; had an event at Kleiner Perkins
      - 2. Had parents' reception last Saturday
- IV. Career Services Report** **J. Grant**
  - a. Jamie:
    - i. Exciting that we are past September, we had hundreds of students getting ready for internships.
    - ii. Still data collecting for class of 2023
      - 1. Job market still robust for engineering students
    - iii. Had over 2000 students participate in career fair with 67 recruiters on site (25 virtual)
      - 1. Hiring is more competitive than last year, but looking promising
        - a. Number of employers is about the same, but fewer positions available

**V. Old Business:**

- a. Approval of prior EASB Meeting Minutes **Directors**
  - i. July Meeting Minutes to be sent out and approved later
- b. Open Action Item Review **J. Lombardo**
  - i. No Open Action Items – None
- c. 2022-2023 Committee Selection Update **B. Jones**
  - i. Engaging Alumni:
    - 1. Regional Alumni Committees:
      - a. Philly Alumni: Jon/Jon
      - b. NYC: Lauren/Dawn
      - c. Rest of World: Lamis
    - 2. Yarnall Award: Jim/Bob/Eric/Marion
      - a. Jim sent material out; first round is done
  - ii. Engaging the Board
    - 1. Back to Penn Engineering/Speaker Series: Sandeep/Jay
  - iii. Engaging Students:
    - 1. AWE/SWE: Lamis/Dawn
    - 2. EDAB/ESAC: Kush
    - 3. Insider's Guide Panel: Jeff/Lauren/Lamis
      - a. Lauren: let's revisit in January. This was strong in prior years
    - 4. Externship: Paul/Sandeep/Kush
    - 5. Senior Design: Lyle/Eric/Ernest/Kush
  - iv. Communications:
    - 1. Website: Jeff
    - 2. Social Media: Yijie/Sandeep
    - 3. Jay/Bernard to look into other communication means
    - 4. Tech Talk (to be combined with Speaker Series)
    - 5. Alumni Interviews of Applicants (Penn Alumni Ambassadors): Eric
      - a. Link for prospective and current volunteers:  
[https://www.alumni.upenn.edu/s/1587/gid2/16/interior\\_1col.aspx?sid=1587&gid=2&sitebuilder=1&pgid=6091](https://www.alumni.upenn.edu/s/1587/gid2/16/interior_1col.aspx?sid=1587&gid=2&sitebuilder=1&pgid=6091)
    - 6. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion: Jay
  - v. Governance: Bernard

**VI. New Business:**

- a. EASB Updates **B. Jones /B. Richards**

- i. Brad:
  - 1. Lamis did a great event a few weeks ago for J&J
  - 2. Most attended event of all was the Meta AI event (85 students)
  - 3. Fallfest: on campus reunion-like event for online students
  - 4. Three sessions for alumni giving
  - 5. Penn Technology Forum: Dean Vijay Kumar and Konrad Kording
  - 6. Homecoming: November 4<sup>th</sup>: this year we are doing a pre-football game tailgate rather than post game reception (11am – 1pm)
  - 7. NYC Annual Fall Event: November 30<sup>th</sup> with AI speaker

b. Meet the Board

**K. Mehta**

- i. To be presented during next meeting in January; Sandeep in April

VII. **Around the Table**

**All**

- i. Eric: looking forward to Homecoming
- ii. Seville: nothing from me thanks
- iii. Kush: EDAB engaged me recently regarding cheat sheet on how to engage with alumni; EDAB is happy to have us to review/assist.
- iv. Chase: thank you, nothing from me
- v. George: nothing more from me thanks
- vi. Ryan: nothing from me
- vii. Marion: November 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm – Farnia Speaking at “Association of Alumnae Annual Colloquium: Women Shaping a Better Tomorrow”
- viii. Jon Lombardo: nothing from me thanks
- ix. Ernest: nothing thanks
- x. Jon Dunsay: I went to the Penn Club kickoff; they know Jay. They promised that they would reach out to me but have not yet. They have co-sponsored an event with Wharton
- xi. Farnia: my event not just open to alumni, focuses on resilience, virtual event
- xii. Bernard: Penn won the Nobel Prize for Medicine related to the mRNA vaccine; drone video I watched on airline flight feature Dean Vijay Kumar
- xiii. Bob: we need automatic volume control for this meeting

VIII. **Adjourn**

**B. Jones**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:13pm

***The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2024 (6:00-7:00 pm)***

Minutes prepared by Jon Lombardo