Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors  
*University of Pennsylvania*  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
[www.seas.upenn.edu/alumni](http://www.seas.upenn.edu/alumni/)

Monday, January 23, 2017 6pm, Room 307 Levine

**Attendees:**

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<td>Ernest Churchville</td>
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<td>Dawn Becket – VP</td>
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<td>Jim Brennan – VP</td>
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<td>Paul McLaughlin – VP</td>
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<td>Jay Olman – Sec</td>
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<td>Bernard Jones</td>
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<td>Russ Miller – Tres</td>
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<td>Jonathan Lombardo</td>
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<td>Brad Abrams – PP</td>
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<td>Tim Carlsen – PP</td>
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<td>Farnia Fresnel – PP</td>
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<td>Marion Hubing – PP</td>
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<td>Bill Kane</td>
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<td>Leah Suttner</td>
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<td>Ellie Davis</td>
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<td>Rosette Pyne</td>
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<td>Brad Richards</td>
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<td>Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos</td>
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**Positions:**
- Pres: President
- VP: Vice President
- Sec: Secretary
- Tres: Treasurer
- PP: Past President
- D: Director
- AD: Associate Director
- AL: At Large Member
- F/S: Penn Faculty/Staff
- UG - Undergraduate
I. Call to Order (S. Mannickarottu)
   • Called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

   Open Action Items:

   New Action Items:
   ACTION: Owner – None

II. President’s Welcome and Remarks (S. Mannickarottu)
   • Reminder that we’ll be gathering for drinks/snacks after the meeting at White Dog

   Open Action Items:

   New Action Items:
   ACTION: Owner – None

III. Development Office Report (G. Hain)
   • Brad reporting instead of George
   • George and Dean Kumar on international trip to Europe and Asia
   • Fundraising on target
   • Board Appreciation Night
     o Proposed Sunday brunch and an afternoon basketball game because there aren’t any available Saturday evening games left
     o February 12, with brunch starting at 11am
     o Bring family and have fun

   Open Action Items:

   New Action Items:
   ACTION: Owner – None

IV. Career Services Report (R. Pyne)
   • Really busy with appointments and walk-ins
   • Startup career fair coming up in February
   • Ivy+ career fair coming up at Columbia
     o Our 15\textsuperscript{th} or 16\textsuperscript{th} year participating
   • There’s a spring career fair too (not just for engineers)
   • Currently working on summer survey results
   • Paul can report on externship program, but it went well again this year
   • We’ll have record numbers of students showing up for mentoring info session
   • Reserved a room for the patent presentation
Bernard: My company is currently understaffed. Is there a way I can reach out to a list of recent engineering graduates?
  o Rosette: If you send a description, I’ll send it out to the list.

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:
ACTION: Owner – None

V. Old Business:

a. Approval of the November 14, 2016 Minutes (Directors)
   • Hank and Eric were present at the November meeting

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:
ACTION: Jay – Update attendance

b. Open Action Item Review (J. Olman)
   • Homecoming videos sent

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:
ACTION:

c. EAS Website/Social Networking – (R. Miller)
   • Russ not available for meeting
   • LinkedIn group up to 3901 members

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:
ACTION:

VI. New Business:

a. Alumni Society Awards (J. Brennan)
   • Discussing changing one of the judging criteria for the Yarnall Award
     o In the past, there was a requirement that the recipient “must have offered a
significant contribution to engineering,” but people go into various fields that aren’t traditionally engineering

- Proposed change to “…to engineering or other endeavors”
- Jay: What would happen if we were not to make the change?
  - Jim: We want to award other people who don’t quite fit within the criteria, and we don’t want to break the rules
  - Matt: We’ve done this sort of thing in the past, and we don’t want to violate rules going forward
  - Jim: The recipient still has to be an engineering alum, of course
  - Eric: Rule change sounds good

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

**ACTION: Russ** – Update title of Yarnall Award page with correct spelling

### b. Patent Presentation (J. Lombardo)

- Room scheduled: March 22 in Wu and Chen Auditorium at 6:15pm
- Currently we have:
  - Patent counsel from Comcast (basics of patent law)
  - Harry Vartanian (presentation about how the new administration might treat patents)
- Now that we have a room scheduled, we’ll send a formal invite to Dr. Beatrice from Pennovation
- We’ll also invite a past participant from Johnson & Johnson
- Next steps are to finalize the agenda and work on advertising
- Sevile: Sounds really good. Thanks to you and your committee for organizing this. I look forward to talking more about details next month.
- Dayo: Is there a guest list to attend? Do people need to register?
  - We’ve never been at risk of filling the room (just running out of pizza)

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:

**ACTION: Owner** – None

### c. Student Engagement (D. Becket)

- AWE:
  - Michaile Rainey is excited to participate in the third Tassel and Toast event
  - This is a mixer event that EAS has been part of planning in the past
  - Introduce alumni to a group of graduating seniors
  - It’s nice this has turned into an annual tradition
  - Proposed date: Monday, April 24 in the Singh Center Glandt Forum
It would be great to have board and alumni presence there like we’ve had in the past.

- Sevile: In the past, how many students have we had?
  - Awe tends to get 40-50 students per event
  - I’m remembering us having 5-8 board members
  - Having more alumni would be great
  - It’s important to make sure these new graduates know how to stay connected after graduating
- Sevile: Definitely a fun event—I’ve enjoyed it.
- Someone who was at one of our past board meetings found out about it from this event. Definitely a good way to reach out to recent grads

- Regional Alumni Mixer:
  - Potential alumni mixer more broad than just Penn alumni
  - Corporate SWE Philly group has shown interest in a mixer (we did the Pennovation tour with them)
  - Center City cash bar works well for them; open to collaboration
  - Sevile: Sounds like a great idea
  - Bernard: Happy to help plan and facilitate. Want to make sure we have the best way to get the message out. People at the past event found out through other participants
    - Dawn: It’d be great for you to handle location stuff since you’ve hosted a successful mixer in the past
  - Jay: Sounds like a good opportunity to talk with people who might be interested in joining our group and increasing participation
  - Make sure to get the event out on Facebook and LinkedIn

Open Action Items:

**New Action Items:**

**ACTION:** Owner – None

### d. Prevention Through Design Presentation (T. Carlsen)

- Proposed and approved during summer meeting
- Intends to supplement students' knowledge about subjects they don't typically hear about through their classwork
- This topic is starting to gain momentum through architecture and legal fields
- Instead of looking at end design safety, look at safety of everyone who touches the building through its construction.
- One of the top priorities of NIOSH; starting to be noticed by OSHA, bar association
- Activity currently by Bucknell and the University of Oregon
- Also starting to be noticed by regulatory organizations
- Program will be an hour
  - Touches on familiarizing students with "prevention through design" buzzword
Will be important for students to know about moving forward with their careers
Likely just after spring break; still finalizing dates (ideally the week before the patent presentation)

- Should be an area of great interest for both engineers and architects; suspect there will soon be regulations and standards around this
- I do believe it'll be compelling and useful and informative
- Sevile: Might be good to reach out to engineering faculty, who might want to incorporate it into their curricula and classrooms
- Bob: Lots of professional societies have interest and information in these sorts of issues
- Tim: I learned a lot about safety in specific designs, but not a whole lot about safety with regard to how your product is built. I suspect that it's really nascent at this point and that very few people are addressing this in the classroom.
- Dayo: Professor Michelle Johnson (BE) may interested and would be a good person to talk to

Open Action Items:

New Action Items:
ACTION: Owner – None

VII. Around the Table (All)

- Bob: We’ll have to talk about another speaker or a meeting this spring. I’ll throw out some ideas and we’ll discuss possibilities.
- Dave: Can you give out the meeting minutes at an earlier date? I have to arrange travel in order to come into town for a lot of the things mentioned.
- Brad: I want to let everyone know there’s a date for the Senior Design Competition: Friday, April 28. Please mark your calendars!

New Action Items:
ACTION: Sevile – Send out meeting minutes earlier

VIII. Adjourn (S. Mannickarottu)

- Adjourned at 7:06 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2017 from 6:00-7:00pm in Room 307 Levine Hall.
Minutes prepared and submitted by Jay Olman