

**Erskine Alumni Association Board Meeting**  
**Saturday, July 13, 2019**

1. The meeting was called to order by President Herb Jordan at 9:00 AM.
2. An opening prayer was given by Reverend Chuck Evans, and introductions were made by those present.
3. A quorum was ruled by President Jordan.
4. Today's agenda was approved, as were the minutes from the February 2, 2019 Alumni Board meeting.
5. President Jordan recognized Erskine President Robert Gustafson. Dr. Gustafson addressed the following issues:
  - (a) General Synod's recent action placing the President of the Alumni Board Association back on the Board of Trustees, this time as an advisory member.
  - (b) It is his goal to update Erskine's business model from one which has Erskine with an enrollment of approximately 500 students to an enrollment between 1000 and 1200. His personal goal was to obtain 375 incoming freshmen in the fall, however the college has already received 400 deposits as of this date.
  - (c) Football is a "hot button" issue with a significant number of alumni, and Dr. Gustafson is attempting to address these concerns.
  - (d) The Alumni Fund was approximately \$150,000 short of its goal.
  - (e) Student retention has declined from around 75-80% in 2010, to a current rate of approximately 61%. The bulk of the retention problem can be traced to "extra athletes" who leave Erskine upon realizing that they will not actually play as much as they anticipated.
  - (f) One-hundred and thirty football players have already enrolled and are expected to arrive in the fall.
  - (g) Three new majors are anticipated in 2020. They include a Master of Science in Athletic Training\*, a combined Bachelor of Arts/Master of Divinity program, and a Master of Arts in Christian Counseling\*. **\* Note: *These program are pending approval by our accrediting bodies. These programs are currently in development; program specifics may change in accordance with accreditation requirements.***  
  
A Master of Medical Humanities is also being considered.
  - (h) The condition of Erskine College, as well as the Seminary, were described as "fragile."
  - (i) Erskine's involvement in charter schools was updated. Currently, the college oversees thirteen schools, with the bulk of these being located in "under resourced" counties. Ten students from these charter schools are expected at Erskine next year. Once this program "peaks," the college expects to be involved with twenty-five to thirty schools, with approximately 1% of these students attending Erskine College.

6. Mr. Mike Irvin, Vice-President for Advancement, showed a new four-minute video prepared by Will Frampton describing Erskine College.
7. Executive Director of Alumni Relations Paul Bell conducted an Alumni Relations update, addressing the following:
  - (a) Alumni Day was held March 30, 2019 and was the largest in recent history
  - (b) Chapter meetings are ongoing and have been well received. Dr. Gustafson presents his vision for Erskine during these meetings.
  - (c) It was recommended that a chapter meeting in the Pee-Dee section of South Carolina be scheduled, and Mr. Bell agreed to do so.
  - (d) The Erskine College Foundation has requested a joint social event with the Erskine College Alumni. This is currently being explored.
  - (e) Any class can have a reunion, not just those ending in a “zero” or a “five.”
  - (f) The next Alumni Day is tentatively scheduled for March 28, 2020.

#### Old Business

1. Motion was made by Mr. David Pendergrass, and seconded by Ms. Amanda Dale to accept recommended bylaw revisions. This motion passed and will take effect immediately.

#### New Business

1. Tentative plans for Homecoming 2019 and Alumni Day 2020 were presented by Paul Bell.
2. Dr. Lee Day made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Carolyn Borden, to set October 4, 2019 at 4:00 PM as the next Alumni Board meeting, and February 1, 2020 as our winter meeting. This motion was approved unanimously.

The Alumni Board went into executive session at 11:20 AM, and returned at 12:05 PM, with no action resulting from the session.

Mr. David Pendergrass made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Reverend Chuck Evans. This motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Jim Moore (1977) Acting Secretary

#### **Board Members in Attendance**

Herb Jordan

#### **Board Members Not in Attendance**

Dr. Zach Davis

Phillip Cook  
Steve Southwell (Electronically)  
Carolyn Borden  
Sanita Cousar  
Amanda Dale  
Jane Shelton Dale  
Patrick Davenport  
Dr. Lee Day  
Rev. Chuck Evans  
Will Frampton (Electronically)  
Jim Moore  
David Pendergrass  
Jess Richardson  
Brandon Wright

Dr. Drew Calcutt  
Shawn Marler  
Pete Savarese