

Erskine Alumni Association Board Meeting  
Saturday, February 2, 2019

1. The meeting was called to order by the President, Angie Grooms, at 9:30 a.m.
2. An opening prayer was given by Barry Eller, and introductions were made by those present.
3. A quorum was ruled by secretary, Ashley Weyer.
4. The minutes from the October 20, 2018 meeting were approved.
5. Committee Reports

*Advancement Committee – Chair, Phillip Cook*

- Committee reminded the Alumni Board of the importance of our giving to the annual fund.
- The committee wants to find ways to help the progress of special projects, such as the alumni house.
- Mike Irvin reported that the annual fund is the key to the budget and that it is approximately halfway funded.
- An upcoming “Day of Giving” is being planned for April 11, 2019. Matching gifts and challenges were encouraged. It will be promoted through social media.

*Enrollment Committee – Chair, Tripp Boykin*

- No report given.

*Student Services Committee – Chair, Shawn Marler*

- The committee is planning an exam study break for seniors in the spring to encourage them and offer them the opportunity to get to know alumni.
- The committee wants to connect with the current senior representatives to convey the significance of their role moving beyond graduation.
- There is a desire to support and connect more with athletics.
- A committee meeting will be planned soon.
- It was noted that current class reps also need to be encouraged to be active. Changes need to be made if necessary for class agents who are unable to continue in their role.

*Nominating Committee – Chair, Herb Jordan*

- Very few nominations had been received, so the letter was resent and several more nominations were made.
- Several excellent candidates have already been nominated.
- The deadline for nominations is February 25, 2019.
- Committee plans to meet February 25, 2019, to determine final candidates.

- The Board needs to fill seven director positions (one from a vacancy), one secretary, and one president-elect.

*By-Laws Committee – Chair, Ashley Weyer*

- The proposed by-law changes were reviewed and discussed.
- The committee will meet with Mike Irvin and/or the Advancement Committee to determine the position of the annual fund chairs.
- Changes will be made and the by-laws will be sent out to the Board for approval.

*Ad Hoc Committee – Chair, Rob Kuykendall*

- A draft of the recommendation that will be presented to the Board of Trustees was reviewed, and discussed.
- It was stressed that the draft was to be kept confidential at this time.
- If passed by the Alumni Board and the Board of Trustees, the recommendation would be presented to the ARP Synod as part of the Erskine report at their annual meeting in June.
- A motion was passed to accept and support the recommendation, with one opposition from Steve Southwell, who requested that his vote be recorded in the minutes.

6. College/Seminary Updates – Dr. Rob Gustafson, President of Erskine

Dr. Gustafson answered several questions from the Board. Some points from the conversation were:

- Insurance will be covering repairs on Euphie Hall, and repairs should begin soon.
- The columns behind the Erskine Building have been removed due to traffic sight issues, but the stones have been preserved for use elsewhere.
- The interim provost position held by Dr. Hellams is not a permanent appointment at this time.
- The thought behind adding football was to increase enrollment, provide needed revenue, and reduce the sizes of other athletic teams to aid in retention.
- Other athletic teams have been added, such as acro/tumbling and beach volleyball, to help balance the male to female ration on campus due to the addition of football.
- Two issues that Erskine is trying to address are increasing faculty salaries and filling out departments where necessary.
- A capital campaign is not currently being planned.

## 7. Board of Trustees Update – Jill Gazzaway, Chairman, Board of Trustees

Jill Gazzaway answered several questions from the Board. Some points from the conversation were:

- A desire to work with the Alumni Board and offer to help the Board in any way possible were conveyed.
- The current recommendation from the Ad Hoc committee was discussed.
- It was reported that there are currently eight Erskine alumni on the Board of Trustees.

## 8. Agenda Items – Paul Bell

### A. General Updates

- Paul Bell expressed gratitude and enjoyment for his new position.
- The EC Foundation is planning a reunion on April 27, 2019, for employees of Erskine in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- There is a plan to restart chapter meetings. There is a desire to hold meetings without fundraisers to share information and answer questions.
- Tim Reese is starting a recruitment network and needs alumni who will connect with potential students.
- Trent Payne is organizing a network of alumni to mentor recent graduates.
- The Alumni Office will participate in Erskine's graduation fair to gather information on all graduating seniors and to give them alumni license plates.

### B. Alumni Office Video Project

- Will Frampton has produced four videos to be used for promotional purposes. He continues to gather video footage for the project.

### C. Updates on Alumni Day

- Alumni Day will be March 30, 2019.
- Save-the-date cards will be sent to all alumni by February 15, 2019.
- Highlights from the event will be: complimentary breakfast and lunch, kids' games, "Back to Class" with various professors, "Meet the Fleet" with athletic coaches, class reunions, and the Association meeting.
- Homecoming has been moved back to the fall to coincide with football season.

### D. Update on new alumni app – Mike Irvin

- The Graduway app has been suspended.
- The Admissions and Communications departments are working on a program similar to the app that will connect prospective students, current students, and alumni.
- This new program may eliminate the need for the Graduway app.

9. Discussion re: communication with Alumni Association – Angie Grooms
- A discussion was held to determine the best way to effectively communicate information to the entire Association.
  - There is an official Erskine Alumni Facebook page.
  - The Erskine website is currently being rebuilt. The intention is to post Board minutes to the website. This would require minutes being approved via email early to ensure that the minutes were up to date online.
  - The idea was suggested that the Alumni have a presence on all social media platforms to reach the younger alumni.
  - There was agreement that we should make the information available to all, but not send information directly to individuals.

10. Closing Remarks – Angie Grooms
- A thank you was given to the visitors.
  - Upcoming meeting dates are:
    - March 30, 2019 – Alumni Association meeting
    - April 27, 2019 – possible conference call meeting
  - Herb Jordan, president-elect, will send dates for the 2019/2020 meetings as soon as possible.

11. There was no executive session.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Submitted by  
Ashley Aldridge Weyer (1997), Secretary

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Jim Bradford  
Phillip Cook  
Jane Shelton Dale  
Patrick Davenport (phone-in)  
Zachary Davis  
S. Barry Eller  
Chuck Evans (phone-in)  
Will Frampton (phone-in)  
Angie Grooms  
Herbert Jordan  
Rob Kuykendall  
Shawn Marler  
Laura Rogers (phone-in)  
Pete Savarese (phone-in)  
Steve Southwell (phone-in)  
Ashley Weyer  
Brandon Wright

\*Andrew Calcutt (arrived for lunch)

**Board Members Not in Attendance:**

Robert "Tripp" Boykin  
Trip McGill  
David Pendergrass