

Alumni Board Meeting

Erskine College, Alumni House

August 23, 2025

CALL TO ORDER + OPENING PRAYER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am on Saturday, August 23, 2025, in the Alumni House on the Erskine College Campus. The opening prayer was given by Ralph Bowling.

ROLL CALL

In the absence of Secretary Peggy Harrill, Mary Horne called roll recognizing the absence of members Wendy Childress, Jack Williams, Christen Davis, and Thomas Holland. A quorum was established.

APPROVAL FOR AUGUST 23, 2025 AGENDA

Tripp Boykin motioned for the approval of the agenda for August 23, 2025, with Rhonda Heyward seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL FOR AGENDA FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2025

Ralph Bowling motioned for the approval of the agenda from February 1, 2025, with President-Elect Austin Walker seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

GET TO KNOW YOU ACTIVITY

President Jim Moore led members in a brief “Get to Know You” Activity. Each board member shared a little bit about themselves, an Erskine memory, and some strengths they can bring to the Alumni Board this year.

OLD BUSINESS

President-Elect Austin Walker gave a brief update on the ad hoc committee for updating the By-Laws. The goal is to adjust the term limits for President and President-Elect so that they are not serving on the Alumni Board for four years or more. President-Elect Walker named Josh Meurer, Jennifer Dobson, and Cherilyn Rice to participate in this committee.

ADVANCEMENT OFFICE UPDATES

Paul Bell began the Advancement Update with the news many givers are coming back and there are also many new givers. There was an anonymous, non-alumnus \$3 million unrestricted gift that came in this summer that has helped the Annual Fund significantly. The college welcomed a large class of new students this year at about 387 new students. Total enrollment sits at about 855 for this academic year. This is a very good start for Erskine. President Jim Moore commented that it is important for Board

Members to tell as many alumni how well Erskine is doing financially, especially in light of small colleges closing doors recently.

Jeanne Bell gave an update on upcoming events for the Board to participate in. Homecoming is November 1 which will be the weekend of our next board meeting. The other major event for the Board is Alumni Day which will be April 18, 2026. Jeanne also encouraged us to take a look at the Erskine Magazine and to take some copies for other alumni to view what has been going on at Erskine recently. Jeanne also shared that we did not have 100% giving from the Board this past year and encouraged members to please give, President Jim Moore also encouraged Board Member giving and participation and attendance at Alumni events. He also requested that everyone please respond to emails.

BREAK

A brief break was taken at 10:58am until 11:15am.

UPDATE FROM DR. ADAMSON

Dr. Adamson began his update by advertising bird houses that will be sold to alumni and friends. The bird houses will be made out of the wood from the old shed behind the President's House.

Dr. Adamson shared that this is the highest number of undergraduate students in Erskine's history with students from 33 states and 24 countries. The Erskine Global Seminary has over 300 students now. The June 30 audit looks like it will be positive for the second year in a row which provides more flexibility for the college. Because of this, Dr. Adamson and Mrs. Adamson will be more outward focused on getting the Erskine name and mission to as many people as possible. The goal is to share the "good" that is going on at Erskine which will help with giving.

Dr. Adamson encouraged members to advertise the Garnet and Gold Forum because it will be a great conversation on artificial intelligence. He connected this to how artificial intelligence could be a catalyst for a Renaissance of Christian Liberal Arts Education. As for Erskine, he emphasized that we will be striving for excellence.

Dr. Adamson shared that Erskine is slowly chipping away at their line of credit. When he began at Erskine it was at \$5 million and now it is at \$2-\$2.5 million. He shared that this should be taken care of in the next year or two. He also shared that the goal is to have 90 days of cash reserves and they should reach that goal in the next one to two years as well.

Dr. Adamson took questions after this. Tripp Boykin asked what students are coming to Erskine for. Dr. Adamson said students are still coming for the small college environment in a small town. He also shared that more positive news about Erskine has helped as well. Jennifer Dobson also asked about clarity on the purpose of the Charter Institute. Dr. Adamson shared that the mission of the Charter Institute is to rural communities to have excellent education. He emphasized that there is absolutely no money being passed between the college and the Charter Institute.

LUNCH

The Board Meeting paused for lunch around 11:54am and resumed with an update from Andy Anderson at 12:11pm.

ADVANCEMENT UPDATE CONITNUED

Andy Anderson gave his portion of the Advancement Office update by beginning with an encouragement to go on the Alaska Cruise next summer with Erskine alumni. He also shared that the upcoming “Mike Goodwin Show” is a ticketed event and would be a great event to attend. Andy asked the Board to show up and help out with upcoming tailgates at the football games. The next one will be September 6 with Erskine playing Anderson University. Andy shared some opportunities from his new role in Career Services. There is a Career Fair happening on September 23 that will have great attendance. He also shared that Handshake is a great resource for students to engage with alumni and it helps get around the road blocks of human connections. This is a great resource for mentorship, interview coaching, and job shadowing.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Board broke into Committee Meetings at 12:38pm and rejoined at 1:28pm. The Student Engagement Committee reported three main actions. The first will be taken on by Brooke Clinton, Trey Watts, and José Espinoza to teach current student how to be good alumni of Erskine College and what that looks like. The second will be led by Mary Horne, José Espinoza, and Austin Walker to push alumni stories to students via social media. The third will be led by Mary Horne and Cherilyn Rice to plan the Alumni Panel for students later this year. The Alumni Engagement Committee shared that they will be focusing on making at least 10 or more connections/reconnections with other alumni. They also want to push Day of Giving long before the week of the Day of Giving. They shared that the Alumni Office and Dr. Adamson have provided some great talking points for alumni conversations. Their goal is to reconnect and rebuild the alumni network.

NEW BUSINESS

President Jim Moore shared the next three Alumni Board meeting dates will be Homecoming weekend, February 21, and Alumni Day (April 18).

CLOSING & ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was motioned to adjourn by President-Elect Austin Walker and seconded by Ralph Bowling. Rhonda Heyward closed the meeting in prayer. The meeting adjourned at 1:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary P. Horne