

Minutes of the Alumni Board

Erskine College

1 November 2025

Chestnut Room

Members Present either in person or by Zoom (indicated by either a P or a Z by their name)

Jim Moore, President (P), Mary Horne, (P), Peggy Harrill, Secretary (P), Austin Walker, President Elect, (P), Gehrig DeFronzo (Z), Brian Melancon (P), Trey Watts (Z), Cherilyn Rice (Z), Tripp Boykin (P), Christen Davis (Z), Josh Meurer, (P), Jennifer Dobson (P), Brooke Wilson (Z).

Those absent: Ralph Bowlingm, Wendy Childress, Thomas Holland, Sherry McAdams, Jose Espinoza.

Roll called at 9:00 and a quorum was established.

Jim Moore, President asked Mary Horne to have our opening prayer.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes of the previous meeting were presented. The motion to accept as presented was made by Mary Horne and seconded by Tipp Boykin. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Adamson addressed the board. An update on the Erskine Charter School was given. He defined a Charter School and how they operated. The easiest explanation was they were a bridge between public school and private schools. Erskine sponsors several throughout the state, with the President of Erskine serving as the Chairman of the Charter School Board. This is not in addition to their role as President, but part of their job description. Each Charter School has its own Principal, guidance counselors and teachers and are not considered state employees. While the outcome of the full audit cannot be divulged until it is made public, Erskine's role is safe.

The next order of business that was discussed was the regional meetings of the alumni association in various locations. These have been worked on by Andy Anderson in the Engagement Office but have not been well attended. Suggestions were asked for to try to improve this.

The Erskine bridge between schools needs to be improved by having our name out front when guidance counselors and principals see the student they think we thrive in the environment of Due West and the Christian Community. Take the initiative to talk to people that have influence in these realms. Networking with teachers and industry.

Dr. Steven Adamson, President of the College then addressed the body. He gave a brief synopsis of the state of the school since the beginning of the semester. Total matriculated student is 835 (down from 854 that had committed before drop/add etc). This is the highest number of students in quite some time. The faculty meetings have been successful in the five year plan that was present stressing Biblical focus, civic mindfulness and the job marker. The largest concern appears to be the impact of AI (Artificial Intelligence) on the academic market. This is partially due to the student disengagement from their surroundings. The ideal student is still one that is well rounded, that can think on their own and ethical. This needs to be adjusted to the current market. The Erskine impact globally is increasing with the Global Seminary having campuses in Rwanda and Pakistan with a current enrollment of 300 and will be expanding to Mexico next year and hopefully in South Sudan in the near future. It was also brought to the attention that Erskine is transitioning to the “School of” model. An example of this is the science department is now called the “School of Biomedical and Natural Sciences.” Erskine is also the third most ethnically diverse campus in South Carolina. There are students from over 30 states and 27 countries. There are also five new minors available: Business Analytics, Certified Financial Planning, Not-for-profit Management and Health Care Administration. The SACSCOC granted full accreditation status through 2032. The Master’s of Christian Counseling is in its second full year and has a full contingent of students.

The meeting was adjourned as a whole was adjourned at 10:04 to have the committees of Student Engagement and Alumni Engagement have time to meet as a group to discuss what each role was and the progress to discuss when the body was brought back together at 11:00.

The chairman of each division then gave a brief summary of their meetings. Student Engagement mentioned it is looking to sponsoring a “late breakfast” at 9 PM on reading day in Moffatt before final exams to have the students know they are cared about by the Alumni Board. There will be several give aways and swag donated. They are also planning a career panel late on this month to help students decided on what their next step might be after leaving Erskine. Student Organization leaders meet with the Chair of this committee (Mary Horne) to help each other in coordination of these different events.

The Alumni Engagement committee chair, Tripp Boykin, then reported on this committee’s activities. The PEN (Personal Erskine Network) invites alumni and friends to reconnect with each other in various ways...social media, telephone, email. By reaching out you can disparage any false rumor in this small group. You can also help them get excited about what is good that is going on in Due West. Focusing on these points will help: Share your story...what do you remember about Erskine? Build a bridge between yourself and younger

people. Encourage financial support...don't contact just to ask for money once a year...a little bit each month is easier than one large payment. Reignite the Spirit of Erskine....We are proud to be an EC alumni....let it show!!! He concluded with the statement that we all need to remember...."The spirit of Erskine lives on through the people who love it."

Paul Bell then discussed the Advancement Department's role. He announced that the annual fund monies for this year are ahead of last year's, thank goodness an anonymous donation of \$3 million dollars. There are restricted funds that are designated for specific areas as well as unrestricted which can be used for general purposes. The \$3 million is in the restricted category but the total is still \$938,000 above last year's giving. It was discussed to have association reunions instead of class reunions. That is meaning that all the like professionals can have meeting...such as educators, business, medical people getting together. There is a meeting with Dr. Adamson coming up in the Greenville and in Atlanta areas. Also the Alaska cruise is fast approaching. If you want to go the deadline for the early bird discount is 10 November.

NEW BUSINESS

President Moore thanked everyone for RSVP's for the meetings. He also thanked Jeanne Bell and her committee for the successful dedication of the new soccer field and its dedication to Ralph Lundy. Over 600 soccer alumni came to honor both the new field and Mr. Lundy.

President Moore also reminded us to think of our local food banks in this time of uncertainty of SNAP funding. Local food banks are always looking for creative ways and donations of food or monetary donation are always welcome.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was presented by Peggy Harrill and seconded by Tripp Boykin. Motion carried unanimously at 11:42