

WHEREAS *Dr. Paul D. Kooistra has served as the sixteenth President of Erskine College; and,*

WHEREAS *Dr. Kooistra is an experienced leader who headed a church agency for two decades, served as president of a seminary for nearly ten years, and earlier in his career led a Christian day school, worked as a pastor, and taught at a college, a school of education, and a seminary; and,*

WHEREAS, *having gained a reputation for transformational leadership in challenging circumstances during his tenure at Mission to the World and at Covenant Theological Seminary, Dr. Kooistra decided to delay his retirement and accept prayerfully the call to offer his talents and experience to Erskine; and,*

WHEREAS *during Dr. Kooistra's presidency, a successful financial plan was implemented and alumni giving was increased, exceeding the Annual Fund goal by nearly \$130,000 in 2014-15 and by more than \$143,000 in 2015-16; and,*

WHEREAS *Dr. Kooistra has devoted attention to the alumni of the institution and has in turn been warmly accepted, receiving a unanimous vote of confidence from the Alumni Board of Directors in 2015; and,*

WHEREAS *Dr. Kooistra, despite the daunting fiscal and administrative demands of his office, has always kept in mind the mission of Erskine as a Christian institution and has focused on students, displaying a genuine concern for their welfare, especially their spiritual welfare; and,*

WHEREAS *South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities will remember the example of a seasoned colleague, mentor, and friend; and,*

WHEREAS *upon his retirement as President, we wish our friend and colleague Paul Kooistra great success, good health, happiness, and fulfillment,*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED *that the Officers, Board, and Staff of the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities do salute Dr. Paul D. Kooistra and join our names among the many who celebrate his accomplishments and dedicated years of service.*