

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
Lexington, Virginia
Minutes
BOARD OF VISITORS MEETING
30 April – 1 May 2021

A meeting of the VMI Board of Visitors was held in Lexington, Virginia in Marshall Hall at VMI beginning at 0800 hours on Friday, 30 April 2021 pursuant to notice.

Present: Mr. John W. Boland '73, President
Mrs. Lara T. Chambers '03
Lieutenant General Charles E. Dominy, USA (Ret)
Mr. Hugh M. Fain III '80
Mr. Conrad M. Hall '65
Mr. Michael L. Hamlar
Mr. Richard K. Hines V '66
Mr. Lester Johnson, Jr. '95
Mr. E. Sean Lanier '94
Mr. David L. Miller '70
Mr. Scot W. Marsh '81
Honorable Joseph R. Reeder
Mr. Eugene Scott, Jr. '80
Mr. Thomas R. Watjen '76
Major General Timothy P. Williams, VAARNG
Lieutenant General Frances C. Wilson, USMC (Ret)

Friday, 30 April 2021 – 0800

- 1) Mr. Boland presided and called the meeting to order and provided opening remarks. Also present was Ms. Cynthia Norwood, legal counsel, Office of the Attorney General. LtGen Wilson participated via teleconference in accordance with requirements stated under the Code of Virginia.
 - a) Mr. Boland congratulated Major General Wins on his selection as the fifteenth Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute.
 - b) Mr. Boland recognized the VMI Football Team as the 2021 Southern Conference Champions, and congratulated Dr. Diles and the entire coaching staff on a tremendous season.
 - c) Mr. Boland restated the VMI Mission and reminded the Board that it is their responsibility to set policy and ask questions, but to allow the administration to execute those policies.
 - d) Mr. Boland highlighted a recent Best Value Schools ranking of *Colleges Most Likely to Land You an Enjoyable Career*. The Virginia Military Institute was ranked #2 among a distinguished list of universities worldwide, with Stanford University ranked #1.

- e) Mr. Boland thanked the VMI Agencies leadership for their financial support and leadership over the past year. He also thanked the General Assembly and the Governor for their continued support financially in supporting VMI's excellent education. Finally, he thanked Mr. Hamlar for his work as Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee; Mr. Hines for his work as Chair of the Commemorations, Memorials, Naming and Review Committee; and Mr. Scott for his work as Chair of the Superintendent Search Committee.
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- 2) *A motion to approve the Board of Visitors Resolutions for individuals retiring from the Institute was made by Mr. Miller, and seconded by Mr. Fain.* The motion passed unanimously. The resolutions are filed with the minutes of this meeting as **Appendix I**.
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- 3) Major General Cedric T. Wins '85, VMI's Superintendent, addressed the Board and welcomed them back to the Institute. He provided the Board with an overview of the past semester and his assessment over the past six months. A copy of the Superintendent's Major Agenda item slides are filed with the minutes of this meeting as **Appendix II**.

- a) Major General Wins discussed that VMI remains a challenge, and that it represents a great opportunity for men and women to get an education. He commented that it is important to continue and relay that message through the various communication mediums available. However, he has observed through social media that there appears to be a fracture in our collective thinking about what is important for the Virginia Military Institute in 2021 and our focus on the current Corps of Cadets. He commented that this has led him to continue his writing on a draft document for the Board to be delivered at a later date focused on fixing this fracture. The title of this draft document is *One Corps, One VMI, A Unifying Action Plan*. The plan is designed to unify the VMI family and community so that we all have an appreciation for VMI and its vision and mission moving forward. The plan identifies a number of items focused on five specific outcomes and will be the foundational document he believes needs to be worked over the next five years. This document will also demonstrate how we will still remain committed to Vision 2039, but that vision will require an update in certain areas to support this plan. The plan will focus on the importance of diversity and inclusion, and the progress that the Institute has made to this point. It will also focus on the visible manifestations of VMI, and how people see and view the Institute and how we see ourselves. The plan sets as the foundation the VMI Honor Code and the single sanction aspects of the system, which he continues to reaffirm and support. MG Wins commented that the plan will focus on the three legged stool (academics, military, and athletics) in the VMI experience, with continued focus on academics and achieving academic excellence. The intent is to have the document finalized over the next month and distributed to the Board.
- b) Major General Wins provided the Board with an update on where VMI has been and where the Institute is going as a result of the past year. A great deal has been centered on VMI's

ability to operate and be successful during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. He commented that he has gained a greater appreciation for the strength and resiliency of the entire Corps of Cadets, and their ability to navigate through this experience. It has been as tough and challenging experience for the Corps, and they have been successful and persevered. We should all be extremely proud of their efforts.

- c) Major General Wins commented that VMI will move forward with in-person activities beginning this summer, building upon the things we have learned over the past year related to operating in a COVID-19 environment. The Institute remains committed to adhering to COVID-19 mandated protocols, but is prepared to adjust with the changing guidance coming from our state leadership.
- d) Major General Wins commented that there will be some changes to the cadet system beginning next fall. This included the addition of a third battalion within the regiment in order to provide more leadership and development opportunities for members of the Corps. Additionally, there will be an annual review of the White Book and Blue Book to make sure the policies and procedures are being properly administered and enforced over the year ahead. Also, there will be a return to the standard ratline, but it will be able to easily adjust to any necessary protocols with regards to COVID. The Commandant has been tasked with sending members of the staff and cadre to Fort Jackson in South Carolina to observe and monitor how new recruits are matriculated, and how training is administered and conducted. Major General Wins commented that there is a big difference between a basic trainee and a VMI cadet, but there exists some best practices as it relates to how VMI should conduct its training and focus. Major General Wins commented that a committee has been formed to review the honor “system” and the Standard Operating Procedures for next fall. He commented that education needs to remain an emphasis item on how the honor code is enforced moving forward. Major General Wins commented that VMI remains on track with current commissioning rates, but a review of our goal to achieve a 70% commissioning rate will need a review as to what is feasible and how we continue to adapt to changes in recruitment by the armed services.
- e) Major General Wins introduced several cadets and highlighted some of their experiences and successes from this past year.
 - i) Major General Wins first introduced Cadet Brady Biller '21 who has achieved academic stars and is a first class private. He discussed a recent posting to Facebook made by Cadet Biller that went viral relating to his VMI experience and his mixed feelings over the past four years. The post focused on a \$100 bill that was found in a stairwell and subsequently turned into the guard room in the early morning hours by another cadet while he was serving as the Night Officer of the Guard. Cadet Biller took a picture of that \$100 and commented that “any other person at any other school in the world would’ve ran off with that hundred-dollar bill” and that is the reason he became a VMI cadet. Cadet Biller believes that “VMI has instilled in him, and all other cadets, the character and integrity” displayed at that very moment while serving on guard in barracks. Cadet Biller further wrote that “a true VMI cadet supports all race, religion, and gender. VMI is the last of its kind, in my eyes it’s the Virginia Military Institute

cadets who will shed light on this crazy time we are all living in. Not every person is perfect, and we can't live to think anyone should be, but a VMI cadet is damn near close."

- ii) Major General Wins introduced Cadet Troy Smith '21, the current Regimental Commander (Cadet First Captain). He is majoring in Computer Science with a 4.0 grade point average, and will be commissioning in the Army. He won the Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States (AMCSUS) Leadership Award, and was also awarded an unconditional acceptance into Cambridge University for Computer Science.
- iii) Major General Wins introduced Cadet Daniel Hamner '22. He is majoring in Chemistry with a 3.76 grade point average. Cadet Hamner represents one of 5 rising 1st Class Institute Scholars and was selected among 120 applicants for the Pauley Heart Center 2021 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship at Virginia Commonwealth University.
- iv) Major General Wins introduced Cadet Jordan Ward '21. Cadet Ward is majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a 3.47 grade point average. He served on the S6 Staff during his cadetship, is currently the Honor Court Vice President for Education, and is Captain of the VMI Football Team. He is the winner of the Keydet Club's prestigious 3-Legged Stool Award for his commitment to leadership and excellence. He plans to pursue his graduate degree and an additional year playing football at Ball State.
- v) Major General Wins introduced Cadet Kasey Meredith '22. She is majoring in International Studies with a 3.4 grade point average. She was just selected as the Regimental Commander (Cadet First Captain), has achieved a perfect score on the VMI Fitness Test, and plans to commission into the USMC through OCS after next academic year.
- f) Major General Wins discussed that VMI is focused on right sizing the faculty and providing increased compensation for our professors. An Academic Review Committee is taking a deep dive into the Core Curriculum and reviewing the general education offerings and upper division electives. Regarding compensation, the goal is to get faculty into the top 5 among institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth. VMI is presently #7 last year and is up from #12 in 2016. There will be 3 chairs awarded at the VMI Awards ceremony in a few weeks.
- g) Major General Wins commented that Coach Dan Earl (basketball) and Coach Scott Wachenheim both earned the Southern Conference Coach of the Year honors. The basketball team advanced to the tournament semi-finals, and the football team won its first SOCON Championship since 1977 and advanced to the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoffs for the first time in program history. Major General Wins commented that the Women's Water Polo team qualified for the Metro Atlantic Athletic Association (MAAC) championship for the 4th consecutive season.

- h) Major General Wins briefly discussed the FY22 Operating Budget and the three scenarios related to potential tuition and fee increases. Three scenarios were developed and will be presented at this board meeting for consideration: a 0%, 2.3%, and a 3% increase. Major General Wins also commented that work continues on the VMI Six Year Plan.
- i) Major General Wins briefed the Board on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan. The plan is due on 1 July 2021 and the staff is continuing to work the plan. Once the new Chief Diversity Officer is hired, they will also have input into this plan prior to submitting it to the state.
- j) Major General Wins commented on various government relations initiatives. He is scheduling several visits over the summer to meet with legislators and answer any questions as it relates to the equity audit. These meetings will also allow him the opportunity to introduce preliminary thinking on various funding requests.
- k) Major General Wins covered some of the ongoing capital projects that are being worked. These included the Corps Physical Training Facility Phase III, Post wide Safety and Security initiatives, Nichols Engineering Building laboratory expansion and renovations, and the Center for Leadership and Ethics Phase II planning. He has requested a full review of the infrastructure plan from the staff over the weeks ahead.
- l) Major General Wins commented that he has tasked the Information Technology department with analyzing requirements for cadets to attend VMI with laptops and ways to ensure we are supporting all cadets that have a need. Additionally, he commented that the IT infrastructure will undergo an upgrade over the next two summers within the barracks.
- m) Major General Wins concluded his remarks by discussing the cadet leadership selections for the next academic year. The selections reflect a diverse background of cadet leaders among the rising first and second class cadets. The staff will continue to work hard at encouraging cadets to take on additional leadership responsibilities within the Corps in order to fully round out their development, to include cadet athletes.

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- 4) Brigadier General Dallas Clark '99, Deputy Superintendent of Finance, Administration, and Support, briefed members of the board on the three scenarios reflecting tuition increases of 0%, 2.3% and 3.0%. A tuition increase of 2.3% for both in-state and out-of-state cadets is what the staff is recommending. Budgeted expenditures in each scenario reflect unavoidable expenditures with minimal increases in non-personnel services. The 0% tuition rate increase option would yield a \$718K revenue deficit. The 2.3% tuition rate increase would essentially yield a balanced budget with \$10K in excess. Finally, the 3% rate increase would result in an excess revenue of \$232K. The scenarios will be discussed during the Audit, Finance, and Planning Committee meeting later in the day for a board decision the following day.
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- 5) Colonel Vern Beitzel '72, Director of Admissions, provided the Board with an admissions update for the Class of 2025. The projected class size is between 515-520 new cadets. The female projections will be between 75 and 90 matriculants. The incoming class has indicated an 85-88% intent to pursue a commissioning, along with a 55-58% intent to pursue a STEM degree. Early decision applications were up 8.1%, but overall applicants were down 1.3% which is consistent with other universities across the Commonwealth. In-state applicants are down 9.4% (667) and out-of-state applicants are up 5.5% (923). The in-state profile for deposits is 55% and out-of-state is 45% as of 29 April 2021. The average grade point average is 3.66. There was no SAT statistical data provided since VMI was test optional for this year. Mr. Watjen asked if there was any data collected as it relates to race and ethnicity, specifically African-Americans. Colonel Beitzel commented that VMI does not collect this data until matriculation. Mr. Reeder asked if that was a policy decision, and was it consistent with other schools across the state. Colonel Beitzel commented that the decision was made several years ago to remove this data, but he would have to gather more background. Mr. Watjen requested that this remain an open item for review and guidance.
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- 6) Ms. Cynthia Norwood, Office of the Attorney General and Counsel to the Board and VMI, provided an annual Freedom of Information Act training. Board members were reminded that gatherings, or any communications, of three or more Board members discussing VMI business constituted a meeting. She reminded Board members that closed session discussions must remain confidential and retained in order not to violate FOIA. She concluded the training by reminding Board members that all documents and e-mails pertaining to Board and VMI business must be retained in accordance with existing retention policies.
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The board concluded its morning session at 0925 hours and adjourned to subcommittee meetings. During the working lunch, the board heard from cadets representing leaders from the First Class, as well as Mr. Steve Hupp, President of the VMI Foundation. Following the afternoon committee meetings, the Board participated in a retirement parade honoring Colonel William Wanovich, the VMI Commandant of Cadets.

Saturday, 1 May 2021 – 0800

- 7) Mr. Boland opened the meeting at 0800 and made some brief opening remarks. He personally thanked key members of the current staff for their efforts. He recognized Mrs. Lori Parrent, Mrs. Katrina Butner, Colonel Gary Bissell, Mrs. Crystal Perry (administrative assistant to the Board), Colonel Lee Rakes, Mrs. Teresa Thompson, Ms. Brooke Higgins, and Mr. Justin Spears for their dedication and wonderful support to the Board and Institute over the years.
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- 8) He then opened the meeting for Public Comment Period. Notice was given which invited public comment during this morning session. Mr. Boland commented that the VMI public comment period is open and welcome for all public comment, not just to address proposed changes to tuition and fees. He inquired whether there was anyone desiring to make comments to the Board. Two individuals provided verbal comment to the Board. Professor Tinni Sen within the Economics and Business department provided comment. Mr. Fredrick Barber, VMI Class of 1994, provided public comment.
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- 9) The Board of Visitors received a report from the outgoing Parent's Council Co-Presidents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Lisa Haiges. They provided an overview on their initiatives and efforts for the year. They received a Certificate of Excellence, and a gratitude of thanks, from Mr. Boland and Major General Wins for their commitment and leadership to the Corps of Cadets and their families for the past year.
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- 10) A motion was made by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Hines, to approve the minutes of the 29 January 2021 meeting of the Board of Visitors. The motion passed unanimously.
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- 11) Mr. Fain, Chair of Academic Affairs, reported on the meeting of his Committee.
- a. A motion was made by Mr. Fain, seconded by Mr. Miller: The Academic Affairs Committee has considered the Changes in the Faculty and Staff list dated 15 April 2021, and recommends that the Board of Visitors approve the changes in the Faculty and Staff and that the list be made part of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously. These Changes will be filed with the minutes as **Appendix III**.
- b. Mr. Fain made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Scott: The Academic Affairs Committee has considered the attached Graduation List (Enclosure 1) dated 15 April 2021 for May 2021 graduates. The Committee recommends the Board of Visitors approve this preliminary list of graduates. The Board of Visitors grants to the Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of the Faculty the authority to delete the names of cadets who do not meet the requirements for graduation from VMI, and to add the names of graduates who may fulfill the requirements for graduation. The Academic Affairs Committee further recommends that the final list of 31 January 2021 graduates (MEMORANDUM NUMBER 17, dated 17 February 2021 – Enclosure (2)) be accepted and filed with the minutes of this meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The final list of January and May 2020 graduates is filed with the minutes of this meeting as **Appendix IV**.

- c. Mr. Fain made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Miller: The Academic Affairs Committee has considered the proposals approved for funding by the Jackson-Hope Board of Overseers at its 14 April 2021 meeting, and recommends that the Board of Visitors approve these appropriations. The motion passed unanimously.
 - d. Mr. Fain made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Reeder: The Academic Affairs Committee has considered the Faculty Handbook, May 2021, and recommends that the Board of Visitors approve the Faculty Handbook and that it be made part of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously. The approved Faculty Handbook is filed with the minutes of this meeting as **Appendix V**.
 - e. Mr. Fain made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Miller: The Academic Affairs Committee has considered the recommended Curricular Changes dated 15 April 2021, and recommends that the Board of Visitors approve these changes and that they be made part of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously. The approved Curricular Changes are filed with the minutes of this meeting as **Appendix VI**.
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12) Mr. Watjen, Chair of the Audit, Finance and Planning Committee, reported on the meeting of his committee.

- a. Mr. Watjen reported that the Auditor of Public Accounts is almost complete. There was a transition between auditors and thus far it has been a very smooth transition. There were two control issues that are being worked related to proper documentation, but nothing of major concern at this time.
- b. Mr. Watjen reported that the Committee reviewed the various tuition fee proposals. Brigadier General Clark briefed the Board on the proposals so everyone had an understanding on the impacts, and the cost for the cadets and their families. A motion was made by Mr. Watjen that the Board of Visitors approve the Proposed FY 2022 Operating Budget, which includes a 2.3% tuition increase for both in-state and out-of-state cadets. The motion passed unanimously. The memorandum to the Board is filed with the minutes of this meeting as **Appendix VII**.
- c. Mr. Watjen discussed additional reports to his committee. This included an Information Technology update from Colonel Wes Robinson, the Director of Information Technology. The board was briefed about the upcoming network improvements over the next couple of years.
- d. The Committee received several other reports to include financial impacts related to COVID-19, CARES ACT compliance, budget reports for FY20 and key financial indicators, a capital and non-capital projects report, the NCAA Audit report, and several other reports presented by the staff.

- e. Mr. Watjen highlighted that the Moody's Investor Services came out with a credit opinion report for VMI. The report was provided to the full Board for their review.
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13) Mr. Hamlar, Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, was unable to make the morning session due to a work obligation. Mrs. Lara Chambers, Vice Chair, reported out on the meeting of their committee.

- a. Mrs. Chambers provided an update on the Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) search. The search committee received 42 applications from across the country and were screened. The list was narrowed to 10 candidates for consideration by the committee and further narrowed down to 3 candidates to come to post for final interviews. The goal is to hire the new CDO over the coming weeks with a projected start date of 1 July 2021.
 - b. Mrs. Chambers commented that the committee discussed the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan and associated legislation to support such a plan. She discussed that the committee reviewed the One Virginia Strategic Framework to help guide agencies in the development of the plan that is due on 1 July 2021.
 - c. Mrs. Chambers commented that the committee discussed the draft Diversity Recruitment Plan. Upon completion this document may become part of the overall DE&I Strategic Plan moving forward.
 - d. The committee is looking forward to continue the advancement of DE&I initiatives moving forward and welcoming the new Chief Diversity Officer to the Institute, while providing the necessary long-term oversight to DE&I policies. Mr. Boland thanked the committee for their work to date.
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14) Mrs. Chambers, Chair of the Athletics Committee, reported on the meeting of her Committee.

- a. Mrs. Chambers provided an overview of the winter and spring sports. An overview of the report is contained within the Athletics Committee tab of the binder. VMI Athletics has had a very successful year and she personally thanked Dr. Diles and his team for all of their hard work in making this all possible.
- b. Mrs. Chambers provided an update on the NCAA landscape. This included an update on the Name-Image-Likeness legislation, the Transfer Portal, and the Transfer Exemption program. Some cadets are taking advantage of the Transfer Portal opportunities. She also commented that the dead period for coaches in the recruitment process is coming to a close.

- c. Mrs. Chambers provided an update on the Athletic Department finances which covered the FY21 close-out, the FY22 Budget, NCAA Revenues and the Guarantee Market changes. The Athletics department has a balanced budget and remains in solid financial standing.
 - d. Mrs. Chambers reported on discussions with regards to ongoing conference realignment efforts. The only impact for VMI is related to the lacrosse program. The SOCON and ASUN Conferences agreed to a lacrosse partnership that would add Hampton to the SOCON lacrosse league and will shift Air Force and Bellarmine to the newly formed ASUN lacrosse league.
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15) Mr. Marsh, Chair of the Cadet/Military Affairs Committee, reported on the meeting of his Committee.

- a. Mr. Marsh reported that the Institute has done a remarkable job related to COVID-19 management. In particular, how the Institute has managed to run its operations for cadets during these difficult times. He also commented that the Commandant Search Committee is underway and the search has been narrowed down with a selection over the weeks ahead.
 - b. Mr. Marsh discussed the cadet training programs and the brochures contained within the board binders. These programs included Cadet Fitness Training, Rat Challenge, Corps Marksmanship, EMT, Cadet Firefighters, New Cadet Military Training, Corps Physical Training, and Cadet Lifeguards. He commented that these programs are all cadet led programs and offer additional leadership opportunities for members of the Corps to broaden their experiences.
 - c. Mr. Marsh reported on the ROTC and commissioning programs for FY21 and FY22. In FY21 the Institute is projected to commission 224 officers, and the projection for FY22 is 243. Additionally, he covered the activities and programs being covered by each of the ROTC departments. He commented that the services are experiencing some challenges with changes to accession policies, how to handle potential cuts, and remaining postured to support the pool of officer candidates necessary for future commissioning numbers. Major General Wins commented that the heads of each AMSCUS institutions are conducting a meeting over the time ahead to address these concerns.
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16) Mr. Scott, Chair of External Relations, reported on the meeting of his Committee.

- a. Mr. Scott provided a government relations update to the Board. The General Assembly approved a 5% salary increase for full-time teaching faculty, administrative faculty, and classified employees. He also commented that members should review the Spring

Legislative Report contained within the binders for an understanding of the broader legislative picture. He discussed some of the legislative bills impacting VMI to include the Enslaved Ancestors College Access Scholarship Program. This program requires VMI and four other colleges to identify and memorialize enslaved persons who labored on these campuses and to provide some tangible benefit from private funds to individuals or specific communities with a demonstrated connection to slavery. VMI is working with SCHEV on the way forward on how to support and identify appropriate funding opportunities. He also discussed a BOV disclosure bill that requires greater transparency in board operations, and the Institute will implement these requirements accordingly. He commented that due to COVID we were unable to host a Legislative Reception in Richmond this year, but a video was produced and sent to law makers thanking them for their support of VMI.

- b. Mr. Scott discussed some of the local government efforts being conducted by VMI. The Institute is involved in a wide range of activities across the community.
- c. Mr. Scott discussed the VMI Museum System and ongoing efforts to support the overall mission during COVID. The museum has been closed to the public, but plans to reopen on 3 May 2021 with a normal operating schedule. He commented that Lieutenant Colonel (ret) Woodhouse, a Tuskegee Airman, will be coming to Lexington and speaking at VMI over the time ahead.
- d. Mr. Scott concluded his remarks by discussing the ongoing Communications and Marketing initiatives. The Institute is doing a great deal related to media coverage, social media, and overall messaging. He thanked Colonel Wyatt and his team, as well as the Alumni Association, for their work in getting the word out about the benefits of a VMI education.

17) Lieutenant General Dominy, Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee, reported on the meeting of his committee.

- a. The committee reviewed and discussed its charter and approved the minutes from its previous meeting.
- b. LTG Dominy commented that the committee reviewed proposed substantive and administrative changes to the Board of Visitors Bylaws. Such changes included the addition of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee charter and the Commemorations, Memorials, and Naming Review Committee charter. These changes are reflected in the Nominating & Governance tab, with all changes highlighted in yellow. *A motion was made by LTG Dominy, and seconded by Mr. Marsh, to approve the recommended changes to the Bylaws, and that these changes be made as part of the minutes of this meeting.* The motion passed unanimously. The approved Bylaws are filed with the minutes of this meeting as **Appendix VIII**.

- c. LTG Dominy reported that the Board must consider a slate of candidates to be elected for the next academic year, which will begin on 1 July 2021. Mr. Boland discussed the proposed slate of officers for recommendation and consideration:

President: Mr. Thomas R. Watjen '76

Vice President: Mr. David L. Miller '70

Vice President: Mr. Eugene Scott, Jr. '80

Vice President: Mrs. Lara T. Chambers '03

Non-Alumni Member of Executive Committee: LTG Charles E. Dominy

A motion was made by Mr. Boland, seconded by Mr. Marsh, to approve the list of officers for service to the Executive Committee beginning 1 July 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

- 18) Mr. Hines, Chair of the Commemorations and Memorials Naming and Review Committee, reported on the meeting of his committee held on 9 April 2021. He discussed that there are five motion items for Board consideration and that he would address each one individually and take a vote. Mr. Hines commented that it was the responsibility of his committee and the full Board to ensure that the grounds at VMI provide an inspiring, inclusive, and inviting landscape. He commented that there are parameters the Board must consider when reviewing the motion items. The Board should consider VMI's method of education, the VMI mission of producing citizen-soldiers with honesty/civility/and respect, and ensure that all of the tributes being voted upon properly reflect VMI's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. The committee used Landscape and Criteria by Which to Assess It document in the board binders as a guide in their recommendations. Mr. Hines reviewed this document and the background used by the committee in their proposed recommendations.

- a. A motion was made by Mr. Hines, seconded by Mr. Boland that the embossed name Stonewall Jackson be removed from the front of Old Barracks; and that the Commemorations and Memorials Naming and Review Committee will use its best efforts to determine whether it would be appropriate to provide a formal new name for the archway and, if so, what that name might be at its next meeting, to be held before the full board meeting scheduled for September 2021. Board members conducted an open discussion and dialogue on the motion and took a board vote. The motion passed with one dissent.
- b. A motion was made by Mr. Hines, seconded by Mr. Boland that the name Jackson be removed from Memorial Hall, and that the committee will use its best efforts to determine an appropriate new name of the building at its next meeting, to be held before the full board meeting scheduled for September 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. The third motion for consideration was a recommendation that the Clinedinst mural be preserved for public display; that the mural continue to be displayed in Memorial

Hall, and that Colonel Gibson will devise a program of contextualization for its current location. The board addressed the proposed motion into two parts; the aspects of preservation and contextualization. Board members conducted an open discussion and dialogue on the motion and recommended a modification to the proposed motion. A motion was made by Mr. Hines, seconded by Mr. Boland, that VMI will preserve the Clinedinst mural currently located in Memorial Hall for public display. Additionally, Colonel Gibson will devise a program of contextualization for the mural for its current location. The motion passed unanimously.

- d. The fourth motion for consideration was a recommendation that the symbolism of the sculpture Virginia Mourning her Dead be expanded to honor all former cadets who have died in wars and military conflicts from 1839 to the present day and that the bronze placards on the base of the statue be replaced (or updated) with plaques that appropriately memorialize all former cadets who have died in military service. Board members conducted an open discussion and dialogue on the motion and recommended a modification to the proposed motion. A motion was made by Mr. Hines, seconded by Mr. Boland, that the symbolism of the sculpture Virginia Mourning her Dead be expanded to honor all former cadets who have died in wars and military conflicts from 1839 to the present day. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. The fifth motion for consideration was a recommendation that the quotation, “You may be whatever you resolve to be,” on the second stoop inside of Jackson Arch remain, but that it should be properly attributed to Professor Thomas J. Jackson. Additionally, a plaque in the archway will provide co-attribution to William Alcott and the Rev. Joel Hawes, who included the quotation in publications in 1834 and 1851 respectively. Board members conducted an open discussion and dialogue on the motion and recommended a modification to the proposed motion. A motion was made by Mr. Hines, seconded by Mr. Boland, that the quotation, “You may be whatever you resolve to be,” on the second stoop inside of Jackson Arch remain, but the attribution to Stonewall Jackson be removed. Additionally, a plaque in the archway will provide co-attribution to William Alcott and the Rev. Joel Hawes, who included the quotation in publications in 1834 and 1851 respectively, and the plaque will include a statement that former VMI Professor Thomas J. Jackson included the quote in his book of maxims. The motion passed unanimously.

19) Mr. Miller, Chair of the Appeals Committee, reported on the meeting of his Committee.

- a. The committee reviewed its charter and approved the minutes from its previous meeting.
- b. The Committee met with cadet Honor Court leadership. Also in attendance were Colonel George M. “Merce” Brooke IV ’94, Colonel Thomas C. Timmes ’92, and

Captain Mary E. Schriver '14, the Superintendent's representatives to the Honor Court. The Honor Court representatives provided an update on the current semester.

- c. Mr. Miller reminded the Board that the committee has requested that the Institute conduct a thorough and comprehensive review of the Honor Court Standard Operating Procedures and provide a report on recommendations at the next meeting in September. Mr. Boland commented that this is a review of the "system" not the "code" as a point of clarification. Mr. Miller further elaborated that this is a review of the procedures and that there is no intention of changing the single sanction aspects of the Honor Code.
- d. Mr. Miller commented that as discussed at the prior meeting of the Board that the names of cadets will not be used during the drum out procedures. He stated that there were some questions by members of the Corps following this change, but after some education sessions the Corps is now fully informed of the changes to these procedures.
- e. Mr. Miller commented that the Honor Court leadership has a solid focus and plan for next academic year, with continued focus on education. He commented how impressed he and the committee remains by this group of individuals serving on the Honor Court.

20) Prior to entering into closed session, Mr. Boland recognized the service of Lieutenant General Fran Wilson for her contributions over the past 8-years. This represents her last meeting and he conveyed his appreciation for her outstanding leadership and meaningful contributions to the Institute. The Board will formally recognize her for her contributions at the next Board meeting in September.

21) **Entered into Closed Session:** *A motion was made by Mr. Watjen, seconded by Mr. Hines, to enter into a Closed Session.* The motion passed unanimously and the Board entered into Closed Session at 1150 hours to discuss:

- a. Disciplinary and other matters that would involve disclosure of information contained in the scholastic records of specific cadets, pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (2), relating to discipline, sexual assault, and Honor Court cases.
- b. Consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (8), relating to the ongoing equity audit of the Institute.

- c. Discussion of the appointment and performance of the Superintendent, pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), including the evaluation of the Superintendent in accordance with Va. Code Section 23.1-1303(B)(8).

22) **Return to Open Meeting:** *A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Watjen, certifying the Closed Meeting.* The motion passed unanimously. The Board returned to open session.

23) There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1315 hours.



KEVIN A. RYAN
Board Secretary