

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA 24450-0304

Board of Visitors Executive Committee June 26, 2024

Members Present

Tom Watjen '76
Hugh Fain '80
Conrad Garcia

Members participating virtually

Teddy Gottwald '81
Gussie Lord '01

Other members present

John Adam's '96

Others present

Col. Bill Wyatt
Representatives of Friends of VMSDEP

Others participating virtually

Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins '85

Tom Watjen called the meeting was called to order at 2:36 p.m. He acknowledged members of the Friends of VMSDEP organization who had submitted written comments to the full board for their consideration.

Mr. Watjen then recognized the superintendent, Maj. Gen. Cedric Wins '85, to discuss a topic that was originally scheduled for closed session but was no longer appropriate for a closed session discussion. Maj. Gen. Wins told the committee VMI had been approached to serve as a fiscal agent for a lab school at Mountain Gateway Community College. He said, since MGCC is a two-year school, they are required to have a public, four-year institution serve as a fiscal agent. After consideration of all the responsibilities involved in being a fiscal agent, it was determined that it was not in VMI's best interest to serve as MGCC's fiscal agent. MGCC later contracted with Old Dominion University to be their fiscal agent.

Mr. Watjen also acknowledged written comments submitted to the Executive Committee regarding The Cadet newspaper. He asked Maj. Gen. Wins for an update. Maj. Gen. Wins reiterated his support for a cadet-run newspaper that reflects the views and interests of the Corps of Cadets. He told the Executive Committee that Brig. Gen. Moreschi has met several times this past academic year with the cadet leaders of the newspaper. The dean has offered the cadets a permit but no agreement was reached prior to the end of the academic year. Maj. Gen. Wins said ongoing discussions include whether the paper has a faculty advisor and the relationship with The Cadet Foundation. Mr. Watjen expressed his desire that there be an agreement in place by the September Board of Visitors meeting.

Teddy Gottwald '81 said there is a lot involved with The Cadet newspaper situation. He said there have been questions about editorial control of the newspaper and, since the cadets have said they control the newspaper, the administration should take them at their word.

Mr. Watjen again recognized those in attendance from the Friends of VMSDEP group. He acknowledged their written comments had been received and explained that there would be no public comment at this



meeting. He asked Col. Wyatt as acting board secretary to explain the public comment policy. Col. Wyatt said that each meeting notice is required to say whether the board or committee will hear public comment. The meeting notice, posted several days in advance, for this Executive Committee said there would be no public comment but written comments were always welcome. Col. Wyatt also noted the board always hears public comment at its annual meeting usually held in late April or early May.

Conrad Garcia made a motion to move the Executive Committee into closed session. The motion was seconded by Hugh Fain '80. At 2:51 p.m., the Executive Committee moved into closed session to discuss the following topics:

- Disciplinary and admissions 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.
- Matters related to the employment, assignment, appointment, or performance of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the public body, and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), relating to review of the Superintendent's performance objectives and to special staff and the evaluation of specific departmental operations.
- Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to actual or probable litigation pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (7), pertaining to actual or probable litigation of the Institute.
- 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).

The board returned to open session at 4 p.m. A motion was made by Conrad Garcia and seconded by Hugh Fain to certify the closed session. A roll call vote of the members present was taken. All members present voted to certify the closed session. Executive Committee member Teddy Gottwald certified via email after the meeting.

At 4:02 p.m., Mr. Fain made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Garcia. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

