

May 2, 2024

Members of the BOV,

Before I convey my concerns, I would like to be clear that I am a sinner just like everyone else and have made my share of mistakes. I have no doubt that I will continue to do so in the future. I can only pray that I learn from them and not repeat them.

I would like to address the issue of being virtuous. While some may argue that we are not to judge, I would call your attention to John 7:24 (New King James Version) – “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

Here are three sources that define being virtuous:

Dictionary – “having or showing high moral standards.”

See: [virtuous - Search \(bing.com\)](#)

Federalist Paper #57 - “The aim of every political Constitution is or ought to be first to obtain for rulers, men who possess most wisdom to discern, and most virtue to pursue the common good of the society. . . .”

See: [The Federalist No. 57, \[19 February 1788\] \(archives.gov\)](#)

Biblical - 2 Peter 1:5-7 (New International Version) – “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness,”

In the explanation of the verse, the following is stated: “a virtuous person is one who has high moral standards, and acts with integrity, honesty, and morality, and importantly, even when no one is looking.”

See: [Top 13 Bible Verses About Virtue | Jack Wellman \(patheos.com\)](#)

Doesn't General Order #46 call for virtuous behavior by stating - “committed to the highest ethical standards”; “treating each community member with respect and dignity?”

Highest Moral Standard?

A guest speaker is brought in to speak at VMI who authored a book called “The Daddies.” One website described it in the following manner: “It offers a dark love letter to masculinity told as a lesbian leather-Daddy love story.”

See: [10 books to honor Women's History Month - Queer Forty](#)

The proposed policy put forth by the Administration regarding Transgender students allowed for a male who declared himself as a female to shower and room with female cadets. Thankfully, the BOV saw the repulsiveness of such a proposal.

Highest Ethical Standard?

Disguised DEI as DOI. The BOV Bylaws, General Order # 1, and the recent mandatory meeting of faculty and staff where the guest speaker promotes herself as a “Diversity Equity & Inclusion speaker, author and researcher” all point to the fact that “DEI is not dead.”

A judge sanctioned VMI pertaining to the contract with NewPoint Strategies.

See: [VMI sanctioned in suit over abandoned procurement — \\$15,286.49 verdict | Virginia Lawyers Weekly \(valawyersweekly.com\)](#)

In the recent “summary judgement” hearing regarding the Col. Todd Pegg lawsuit, the judge made the following statement: “You can’t sue them for ***not acting honorably*** (emphasis added).” It should also be noted that in the “Defendant’s (VMI Board of Visitors) Motion for Summary Judgement” filed in March of this year, legal counsel for VMI initially referred to Col. Todd Pegg as “Plaintiff Todd Allan Pegg (‘Pegg’)” and then refers to him repeatedly as merely “Pegg.” Is that showing “respect and dignity” to a man who has served this nation and VMI with distinction?

Although VMI officials don’t tie Critical Race Theory (CRT) to DEI, scholars such as Dr. Carol Swain, experts like Heather MacDonald, think tanks like the Heritage Foundation do. Even the Virginia Association of Scholars had this to say in their January of 2023 report: “***Under the DEI banner***, anti-American racial and sexual politics advance, ***including*** with allied slogans and theories such as ‘white privilege,’ ‘anti-racism,’ ‘***critical race theory***,’ . . .” (emphasis added)

See: [VAAS+DEI+Report+V2.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](#)

The President of the BOV has asserted the “strong support of freedom of speech,” yet organizations who advocate for freedom of speech have been critical of VMI. In an Alumni Town Hall meeting referencing VMI getting involved with negative articles about the school, he stated: “getting involved directly isn’t going to help our cause.” And yet VMI got “involved directly” when articles appeared in the Cardinal News and Washington Post on the cadets from the Cadet Newspaper receiving a prestigious award from the Virginia Press Association.

On that point, the Superintendent had asserted that no one at VMI had questioned the integrity of those cadets, to which Mr. Teddy Gottwald responded: “General, I disagree with that.” Evidence clearly supports Mr. Gottwald’s statement. The Superintendent had also stated in the Alumni Town Hall mentioned previously: “Probably over a year and a half ago, I gave strong feeling suggesting that we deal with our issues and our disagreements in house. That we were providing fodder, if you will, to the Washington Post.” And yet he took to social media to engage in a personal attack against me, while at the same time disrespecting over 100 former Honor Court members spanning a period of six decades by merely referring to them as “that group,” and the content of the letter as “nothing in it was enlightening.” Respect? Dignity? He was right about one thing. His post provided “fodder to the Washington Post.” One final point, the Superintendent’s Chief of Staff had his honor challenged in an article appearing in the Cadet Newspaper.

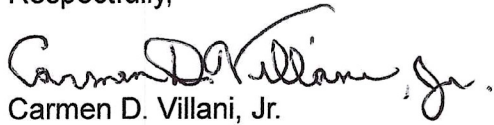
See: [A Response to the Chief of Staff and the VMI Administration | The Cadet \(cadetnewspaper.com\)](#)

In closing, I request the BOV act in the following manner:

1. Eliminate DEI/DOI in its entirety. It is a divisive Marxist ideology that has no place at VMI. All across this nation more and more entities are realizing this and removing it.
2. Call for the President of the BOV and my Brother Rat to step down as President.
3. Call for the resignation of the Superintendent.

I will be forever grateful for my 4 years at the Institute, but in my view, the high standards that are called for in General Order #46 are not being adhered to and a change in leadership must take place. I thank you for your consideration and "God Bless V-M-I!"

Respectfully,



Carmen D. Villani, Jr.

VMI, Class of 1976

Former President of the Honor Court