

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

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21 January 2025

MEMORANDUM THROUGH THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FOR THE BOARD OF VISITORS


SUBJECT: Approval of Changes in the Faculty

Background

The Board of Visitors is charged with the responsibility of approving changes in the faculty. The Changes in Faculty list dated 21 January 2025 (enclosed) is submitted for approval.

Recommended Motion

“The Academic Affairs Committee has considered the Changes in the Faculty list dated 21 January 2025. I recommend that the Board of Visitors approve these Changes in the Faculty and that the list be made part of the minutes.”



Cedric T. Wins '85

Major General, U.S. Army (Retired)
Superintendent

21 January 2025

I. APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments are effective on dates indicated:

BALARATNAM, Dr. Sumirtha, Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry, tenure track. Education: Ph.D., Chemistry, Kent State University. Salary: \$80,000. Effective date: 1 August 2025

BOUILLON, Camille, Lecturer in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, non-tenure track. Education: M.A., French and Francophone Studies, University of Pennsylvania. Salary: \$60,000. Effective date: 1 August 2025.

GINSBACH, Major Katie S., Assistant Professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, tenure track. Education: Ph.D., Spanish, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Salary: \$82,500. Effective date: 1 August 2025.

GOKATALAY, Dr. Semih, Assistant Professor in the Department of History, tenure track. Education: Ph.D., History, University of California. Salary: \$70,000. Effective date: 1 August 2025.

SHAHBAZI, Dr. Khosro, Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, tenure track. Education: Ph.D., Mechanical Engineering, University of Toronto. Salary: \$135,000. Effective date: 1 August 2025.

VEYSEY-WHITE, Dr. Isaac, Assistant Professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, tenure track. Education: Ph.D., Hispanic Cultural Studies, Michigan State University. Salary: \$72,000. Effective date: 1 August 2025.

II. ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The following faculty members will be on leave of absence effective on the dates indicated:

ARNDT, Lieutenant Colonel Jochen, Associate Professor in the Department of History, will be on Jackson-Hope Faculty Development Leave during spring 2025. He will work on a project entitled "Global Soldiers Fighting the Cold War in Angola, 1975-1988." Effective date: 14 January 2025.

BELL, Colonel Wade, Professor in the Department of Biology, will be on Wachtmeister Faculty Development Leave during spring 2025. He will work on a project entitled "Analysis of Pink1/Parkin Agonists and Antagonists on Mitochondrial and Nuclear Phenotypes in Paramecium Tetraurelia." Effective date: 14 January 2025.

COX, Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey W., Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Mathematics, will be on VMI Awards Faculty Development Leave during spring 2025. He will work on a project entitled “Interactive Textbook Development – Paving the Way for Modern Textbooks.” Effective date: 14 January 2025.

III. RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The following faculty members return from leave effective on the dates indicated:

GIRE, Colonel James T. Professor and Head in the Department of Psychology, returns from Jackson-Hope Faculty Development leave during fall 2024. He worked on a project entitled “Investigating the Relationship between Alcohol Availability and Crime in Nigerian Neighborhoods: A Multi-Method Approach,” an extensive examination of the increasing rate of violence and crime in Nigeria and if the control of alcohol availability is worth considering. Effective date: 14 January 2025.

HARRISON, Colonel Daniel P., Professor in the Department of Chemistry, returns from Ayres Faculty Development Leave during fall 2024. He worked on a project entitled “New Approaches to Converting Carbon Dioxide into High-Value Chemicals,” which examined means to reverse anthropogenic climate change effects and inspire other renewable energy chemists to adopt an underexplored methodology. The project should result in the ability to preliminarily test the hypothesis that we can produce valuable carbon dioxide conversion products at room temperature. Effective date: 14 January 2025.

PASSMORE, Major Timothy J., Assistant Professor in the Department of International Studies and Political Science, returns from Jackson-Hope Faculty Development Leave during fall 2024. He worked on a project entitled “The Price of Peace: The Politics of Resourcing UN Peacekeeping (a book project with Dr. Megan Shannon),” which expanded upon existing articles and papers already written into a full-length book to address the politics and implications of state funding the United Nations peacekeeping operations. Effective date: 14 January 2025.

SCHROEPFER, Major Jason W., Assistant Professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, returns from Ayres Faculty Development Leave during fall 2024. He worked on a project entitled “Linguistic Systems in Arabic Dialects through Two Articles,” which included travel to Abu Dhabi and Leiden to gather data on rural Saudi Arabian Arabic to help redefine linguistic categories, incorporate feedback from *Association de Dialectologie Arabe* (AIDA) for “Revisiting the Colors and Defects Category in Arabic Morphology” and submit to *Folio Orientalia* or *Arabica*. He incorporated feedback from AIDA and worked on revisions for an invited paper “Negotiating Identity in Upper Egypt: Aswan Arabic on its own Terms.” Effective date: 14 January 2025.

IV. INSTITUTE PROFESSORSHIPS AND CHAIRS

The following appointments as holders of Institute Professorships and Chairs are effective on the dates indicated:

BLANDINO, Colonel Joseph R., Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, is reappointed to the Benjamin H. Powell, Jr., '36 Institute Professorship in Engineering. Effective date: 1 August 2025.

DAVID, Colonel John, Professor in the Department of Applied Mathematics, is reappointed to the Jackson-Hope Distinguished Chair in Natural Sciences. Effective date: 1 August 2025.

DOWLING, Colonel Timothy C., Professor in the Department of History, is reappointed to the Henry King Burgwyn, Jr., Boy Colonel of the Confederacy, Chair of Military History. Effective date: 1 August 2025.

FREIN, Colonel Scott T., Professor in the Department of Psychology, is reappointed to the Colonel Beverly M. Read 1941 Institute Professorship in Arts and Sciences. Effective date: 1 August 2025.

NEWHOUSE, Colonel Charles D., Professor and Head in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is reappointed to the Charles S. Luck, Jr., 1920 Institute Professorship in Engineering. Effective date: 1 August 2025.

SMITH, Colonel Jeffrey S., Professor and Head in the Department of Economics and Business, is reappointed to the General Edwin Cox 1920 Institute Professorship in History and Economics. Effective date: 1 August 2025.

SMITH, Colonel Stanton Q., Professor and Head in the Department of Chemistry, is reappointed to the John C. Allen '62 Distinguished Professorship in Chemistry. Effective date: 1 August 2025.

V. RESIGNATIONS

The following resignations are effective on the dates indicated:

MAKTOOMI, Dr. Mohammad A., resigned as Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Effective date: 13 January 2025.

VI. APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE OFFICERS

The following service officers reported for duty effective on the dates indicated:

PARKER, Staff Sergeant Samantha, Non-Commissioned Administration Officer in the Department of Aerospace Studies. Effective date: 13 November 2025.

QUICK, Sergeant First Class Matthew, Instructor in the Department of Military Science. Effective date: 10 September 2024.

WALTON, Lieutenant Joshua, Instructor in the Department of Naval Science. Effective date: 21 December 2024.

WOOD, Major Jeremiah, Executive Officer in the Department of Military Science. Effective date: 16 September 2024.

VII. RELIEF OF SERVICE OFFICERS

The following service officers will be relieved from duty effective on the dates indicated:

BROWN, Master Sergeant Alexander, Instructor in the Department of Military Science. Effective date: 1 January 2025.

HUGHES, Lieutenant Christopher, Instructor in the Department of Naval Science. Effective date: 8 January 2025.

HENDERSON, Gunnery Sergeant Claude, Instructor in the Department of Naval Science. Effective date: 18 December 2024.