

Agenda

Board of Visitors

Athletic Committee

April 28, 2023

- I. New Department Staff
- II. Budget Review
- III. NCAA Legislative Update
- IV. Transfer Portal
- V. SoCon Commissioners Update



**BOV Athletic Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2023**

## 01/27/23 BOV Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

Tom Watjen (BOV President)

Lara Chambers (BOV Vice President)

Michael Hamlar (BOV Member)

Lester Johnson Jr. (BOV Member)

Damon Williams (BOV Member)

Bland Massie Jr. (Keydet Club Board of Governors President)

Andrew Deal (VMI Keydet Club COO)

Maj. Gen. Cedric Wins (VMI Superintendent)

Jim Miller (VMI Director of Intercollegiate Athletics)

Lenny Brown (VMI Deputy Director of Intercollegiate Athletics)

Emily Fulton (VMI Assistant Athletic Director for Operations and Finance/SWA)

Danny Rocco (VMI Head Football Coach)

Richard Vierling (VMI Asst. Dir. Acad. Services & Compliance)

### Minutes

10:37am – Mrs. Chambers opened the meeting and discussed the hire of new Football Coach

10:40am – Mr. Miller introduced new Head Football Coach Danny Rocco

10:42am – Mr. Rocco gave a few words to the board introducing himself, talked about his coaching resume and expressed his excitement towards taking over the position of head football coach

10:45am – Mr. Miller introduced the President of Keydet Club Mr. Bland who was present at the meeting

10:46am – Mrs. Chambers brought forward a motion for the establishment of an Academic Achievement Fund. Mr. Miller then gave an overview of the fund, it would be disbursed through the Keydet club by way of independent donations and given to the Basketball Student Athletes. Athletes who do well would earn credit, and then upon graduation from VMI would receive the accumulated Academic Achievement Fund Credit during their tenure at VMI

10:52am – Mr. Johnson expressed concerns about creating a future divide or animosity arising from the funds being solely given to the Basketball team

10:58 – Mr. Hamlar discussed NIL implications and said that he is in favor of the establishment of the fund. Believes the pitch should be saying that we recruit, and develop them at VMI and want them to get the full benefit of the VMI experience (degree, prestige, etc.)

11:04am – Major General Wins spoke about the importance of athletics at VMI and stressed that the focus of the fund is on retention

11:14am – Discussions of the fund continued, concerning topics such as NIL, the transfer portal and what other schools within the conference were doing. Mr. Williams spoke to how another incentive and talking point could be the impact that the student athletes could have after their time at VMI.

11:18am – Mrs. Chambers read the motion and the motion for the recommendation to the board was made and then seconded. It was voted in favor by a majority of parties

11:20am – the board moved to discussing the report put together by the athletic department staff. Highlights included a quick overview of academics and the new legislation recommended by the NCAA (increase of countable coaches, health and wellness piece for student athletes, a removal of sports equivalency for scholarships)

11:27am – Mrs. Chambers directed the board to discuss budgeting and possible restructuring of teams and scholarships. Mr. Miller elaborated how going forward there needs to be a hard look at the cost and revenue issues and implications of what moving certain sports to a club designation.

11:44am – the meeting closed