

**From:** [Chip Humphrey](#)  
**To:** [Tyree, Matthew R. "Matt"](#)  
**Subject:** BOV Transgender Discussion  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 10:39:16 AM

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Matthew,

Please share my comments with the BOV before the next meeting:

I have already shared with Mr. Gottwald. I made some adjustments from the original note that I sent Mr. Gottwald but the essence remains the same.

[I realize this may be a be difficult to do at the state level but it may be worth a shot.]

I read with interest VMI's planned transgender policy dated 17 November 2023. The fact that VMI is a boarding school has a significant impact on this proposed policy. A student cannot be married, disabled, or pregnant and attend VMI. There is no risk exposure here because it makes common sense. So why would the transgender issue be any different? If a married couple wanted to attend, do we knock a hole in the wall and join two rooms? Set up a day care facility? Increase the medical staff to support the medical issues associated with childbirth? Of course not. Just as there is a note to all applicants regarding marriage, disabilities, and pregnancy, transgender ought to be included because it does not fit the VMI model. Clearly it is not compatible with VMI. If VMI can't discriminate on gender identity, how can it do so for marriage, disabilities, and pregnancy?

Reading the discussion concerning whether or not the individual identifies as a woman or a man sounds like it is not consistent with Virginia's model policies.

Please figure out a way that the STATE can add the transgender issue to the same reason marriage, disability, and pregnancy are included. If the policy was to be based on "biological sex," this policy discussion misses the mark. The STATE needs to make the guidelines for this just like they did for marriage, disabilities, and pregnancy. Assuming that VMI has to make this policy is absolutely wrong. Having the STATE make the policy as described should alleviate the legal risk exposure.

I fear that this will be the last straw with the Alumni after the DE(O)I

issue.

Rah Virginia Mill!

Chip

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"A nation that forgets its past has no future." Churchill