

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

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27 August 2024

MEMORANDUM THROUGH THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FOR THE BOARD OF VISITORS

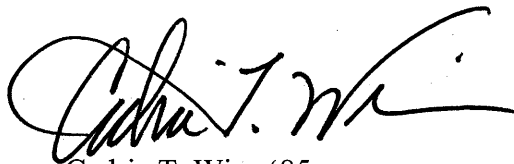
SUBJECT: Approval of Changes in the Faculty

Background

The Board of Visitors is charged with the responsibility of approving changes in the faculty. The Changes in Faculty list dated 27 August 2024 (enclosed) is submitted for approval.

Recommended Motion

“The Academic Affairs Committee has considered the Changes in the Faculty list dated 27 August 2024. 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

I. APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments are effective on dates indicated:

AO, Dr. Jing, Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics and Business, Tenure track. Education: Ph.D., Business Administration and Finance, Kent State University. Salary: \$131,000. Effective date: 1 August 2024.

BECHTEL, Major Connie, Lecturer in the Department of Human Performance and Wellness, Non-tenure track. Education: PsyD., Psychology, University of Arizona. Salary: \$63,000. Effective date: 1 August 2024.

CRANE, Phillip L., Peay Fellow Instructor-in-Residence in the Department of International Studies and Political Science, Non-tenure track. Education: M.A., International Affairs, Columbia University. Salary: \$60,000. Effective date: 1 August 2024.

NEOFOTIS, Major Peter G., Lecturer in the Department of Biology, Non-tenure track. Education: Ph.D., Biology, City University of New York. Salary: \$60,000. Effective date: 1 August 2024.

RILEY, Captain Zebulen A., Instructor in the Department of Economics and Business, Non-tenure track. Education: M.A., Economics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Salary: \$95,000. Effective date: 1 August 2024.

SOLTANI, Lieutenant Colonel Seyed, Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Tenure track. Education: Ph.D., Mechanical Engineering, Wichita State University. Salary: \$120,000. Effective date: 1 August 2024.

II. CHANGE OF STATUS

BAUR, Major Katherine G., is appointed as Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Performance and Wellness, Tenure track, after previously serving the Department as an Instructor, Non-tenure track.

SULLIVAN, Colonel Gerald A., is appointed as Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Effective date: 1 August 2024.

III. ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

COX, Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey W., Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Mathematics, will be on VMI Awards Faculty Development Leave during fall 2024. He will work on a project entitled "Interactive Textbook Development – Paving the Way for Modern Textbooks," which involves creating an innovative, interactive textbook that leverages modern digital capabilities for a more engaging learning experience. The project should yield several outcomes including the textbook, a path for new scholarly engagement, and a template for modern textbook design. Effective date: 1 August 2024.

GIRE, Colonel James T., Professor in the Department of Psychology, will be on Jackson-Hope Faculty Development Leave during fall 2024. He will work 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. This should lead to a manuscript resulting in an important publication on the question. Effective date: 1 August 2024.

HARRISON, Colonel Daniel P., Professor in the Department of Chemistry, will be on Ayres Faculty Development Leave during fall 2024. He will work on a project entitled "New Approaches to Converting Carbon Dioxide into High-Value Chemicals," which will examine 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: 1 August 2024.

PASSMORE, Major Timothy J., Assistant Professor in the Department of International Studies and Political Science, will be on Jackson-Hope Faculty Development Leave during fall 2024. He will work on a project entitled "The Price of Peace: The Politics of Resourcing UN Peacekeeping (a book project with Dr. Megan Shannon)," which will expand 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. The goal is to secure a contract with a top-tier publisher and complete a large proportion of the manuscript by the end of 2024. Effective date: 1 August 2024.

SCHROEPFER, Major Jason W., Assistant Professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, will be on Ayres Faculty Development Leave during fall 2024. He will work on a project entitled "Linguistic Systems in Arabic Dialects through Two Articles," which will include travel to Abu Dhabi and Leiden to gather data of 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 plans to incorporate feedback from AIDA and work on revisions for an invited paper "Negotiating Identity in Upper Egypt: Aswan Arabic on its own Terms" and submit the final version, if accepted, to *Journal of Arabic Sociolinguistics*. Effective date: 1 August 2024.

IV. RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

FADIA, Colonel Emily L., Professor in the Department of Biology, returns from VMI Awards Faculty Development Leave during spring 2024. She worked on a project entitled “Microbiome Analysis for Teaching and Research” in which she used the acquired skills to improve the analysis of her existing data for tardigrade microbiome sequences to publication quality. In addition, she developed course modules for several courses at VMI. Effective date: 1 August 2024.

FREIN, Colonel Scott T., Professor in the Department of Psychology, returns from Jackson-Hope Faculty Development Leave during spring 2024. He completed an online certificate in *Nutrition and Healthy Living* from Cornell University. The expertise gained was incorporated into his teaching and research, with his redesign of parts of his Cognition and Positive Psychology courses. Effective date: 1 August 2024.

V. VISITNG SCHOLARS CHAIRS

The following appointments as holders of Visiting Scholar Chairs during the dates indicated:

CHATTERJEE, Dr. Shibashis, holder of the Eugenio Lopez Visiting Chair for Asian Studies, Department of International Studies and Political Science. Education: Ph.D., Indian Foreign Policy, Jadavpur University. Salary: \$42,000. Effective dates: 14 January 2024 – 9 May 2025.

HICKS, Dr. Michael, holder of the Economics-Mary Moody Northern Chair, Department of Economics and Business. Education: Ph.D., Economics, University of Tennessee. Salary: \$22,832. Effective dates: 27 August 2024 – 19 December 2024.

KERSHAW, Colonel Dean A. (USA Ret.), holder of the Wachtmeister Chair, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Education: Master’s Degree, Engineering Management, George Washington University. Salary: \$44,907. Effective dates: 27 August 2024 – 9 May 2025.

SMIGROD, Ms. Claudia M., holder of the Edwin P. Conquest ’14 Chair, Department of English, Rhetoric, and Humanistic Studies. Education: M.F.A., Photography, The George Washington University. Salary: \$38,870. Effective dates: 27 August 2024 – 19 December 2024.

TURNER, Colonel James E. Sr., ‘65, holder of the Thomas Bahnson and Anne Bassett Professorship in Ethics and Integrity, Department of Biology. Education: Ph.D., Zoology, University of Tennessee. Salary: \$61,411. Effective dates: 27 August 2024 – 9 May 2025.

VI. INSTITUTE PROFESSORSHIPS AND CHAIRS

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

SMYTHE, Colonel Ashleigh, Professor in the Department of Biology, is appointed to the Bruce C. Gottwald, Sr. '54 Chair for Academic Excellence. Effective date: 1 August 2024.

VII. APPOINTMENT OF EMERITUS

The following retiring members of the faculty will be appointed to Emeritus status on the dates indicated:

ANDREEVA, Colonel Elena, Professor in the Department of History, after 24 years of service. Effective date: 31 July 2024.

VIII. RESIGNATIONS

The following resignations are effective on the dates indicated:

ARCIERO, Lieutenant Colonel Anthony R., resigned as Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology. Effective date: 31 July 2024.

QUEVEDO, Major Shannon P., resigned as Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry. Effective date: 31 July 2024.

IX. APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE OFFICERS

DENNINGHOFF, Major Thomas, Instructor in the Department of Aerospace Studies. Effective date: 11 July 2024.

EVANS, Lieutenant Mario, Instructor in the Department of Naval Science. Effective date: 11 July 2024.

FREDENBURG, Lieutenant Dylan W., Instructor in the Department of Naval Science. Effective date: 5 August 2024.

WHITE, Master Sergeant Michael, Instructor in the Department of Military Science. Effective date: 1 July 2024.

X. RELIEF OF SERVICE OFFICERS

ADAMS, Lieutenant Michael, Instructor in the Department of Naval Science. Effective date: 30 July 2024.

BLUM, Major Erik M., Instructor in the Department of Aerospace Studies. Effective date: 5 June 2024.

FORBES, Major James, Instructor in the Department of Aerospace Studies. Effective date: 26 July 2024.

FRANCESCHINA, Lieutenant Daniel, Instructor in the Department of Naval Science. Effective date: 7 March 2024.

GARTRELL, Lieutenant Daniel, Instructor in the Department of Naval Science. Effective date: 18 December 2023.

GRINDER, Sergeant First Class Shane, Instructor in the Department of Military Science. Effective date: 10 July 2024.

HAGENSON, Master Sergeant Zachery, Instructor in the Department of Military Science. Effective date: 10 June 2024.

MEGGETT, Staff Sergeant Mihesha S., Instructor in the Department of Military Science. Effective date: 10 July 2024.

REASER, Major Mark, Instructor in the Department of Naval Science. Effective date: 17 May 2024.

ROBINSON, Staff Sergeant Michael, Instructor in the Department of Aerospace Studies. Effective date: 31 May 2024.

THOMPSON, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Joseph J., Instructor in the Department of Aerospace Studies. Effective date: 20 June 2024.

WALLACE, Captain William, Instructor in the Department of Military Science. Effective date: 10 July 2024.