

Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
1015-1145 hours
28 April 2023
Smith Hall Board Room

Present:

Board Members	Staff	VMI Alumni Association
Mr. Fain	BG Moreschi	Dr. Gupton
Mr. Garcia	COL McDonald	
Ms. Lord	CAPT Sebastino	
Mr. Scott	LTC Young	VMI Foundation
	Ms. Dirscherl	Mr. King

Ms. Lord called the meeting to order at 1028.

The minutes of the 20 March 2023 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee were unanimously approved (Attachment 1).

1. Changes in the Faculty

The Academic Affairs Committee considered the Changes in the Faculty dated 13 April 2023 (Attachment 2). BG Moreschi noted that one member of the faculty was denied tenure and has appealed that decision. BG Moreschi explained the appeal process and the appointment of an *ad hoc* review committee noting that the committee would evaluate whether the Tenure and Promotion process was adequately followed; it would not evaluate the recommendation to deny tenure.

The Committee approved those Changes in the Faculty.

2. Approval of Graduates

The Academic Affairs Committee considered the Graduation List dated 13 April 2023 for May 2023 graduates (Attachment 3). The Committee approved this preliminary list of graduates and granted to the Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of the Faculty the authority to delete the names of cadets who do not meet the requirements for graduation and to add the names of graduates who may fulfill the requirements for graduation. The Committee further approved the final list of January 2023 graduates.

3. Approval of Jackson-Hope Grants

BG Moreschi reported that on 11 April 2023, the Jackson-Hope Board of Overseers funded eight grant proposals for the 2023-24 through 2027-28 academic years for a total of \$724,300. The table below summarizes the grants.

1.	Faculty Development (2023-2024)	\$153,000
2.	Faculty Recruiting (2023-2024)	\$70,000
3.	New Directions in Teaching and Research (2023-2024)	\$76,300
4.	VMI Center for Undergraduate Research (2023-2024)	\$100,000
5.	Constitutional History Program Support (2023-2028)	\$100,000
6.	Director of Innovation Programming (2023-2028)	\$80,000
7.	Summer Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Program (2023-2025)	\$122,000
8.	CIS Cadet Research Laboratory (2023-2024)	\$23,000

The Committee unanimously approved the Jackson-Hope appropriations.

4. Approval of Changes to the Faculty Handbook

BG Moreschi briefed the Academic Affairs Committee on the proposed change (Attachment 4) to the *Faculty Handbook – September 2022*, which would establish the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC). The FAC is intended to improve the representativeness, functioning, and outputs of the existing Academic Board/Department Head system of faculty governance at VMI. The *Faculty Handbook* with the proposed addition is renamed the *Faculty Handbook – April 2023*.

The Committee unanimously approved the *Faculty Handbook – April 2023*.

5. Approval of Curricular Changes

BG Moreschi briefed the Academic Affairs Committee on Curricular Changes dated 13 April 2023 (Attachment 5) that have been approved by the Academic Board. These changes included the following:

- Programmatic Changes:
 - Economics and Business Major with a Concentration in Decision Analytics
 - Computer Science Curricular Changes – Three Tracks
 - Computer and Information Sciences Minor Revision
 - Cybersecurity Minor Revision
 - History Curricular Changes
- Deleted Courses¹:
 - LS 450 – Leadership and Career Development III (0-1-0)

- LS 451 – Leadership and Career Development IV (0-1-0)
- IS 329 – Counterinsurgency (3-0-3)
- IS 333 – Politics in Southeast Asia (3-0-3)
- IS 335 – Politics in Latin America (3-0-3)
- New Courses¹:
 - CIS 377 – Linux Fundamentals, Administration, and Security (3-0-3)
 - CIS 477 – Secure Software Engineering (3-0-3)
 - CIS 131 – Introduction to Information Systems (3-0-3)
 - CIS 331 – Human Computer Interaction and Usability Analysis (3-0-3)
 - CIS 430 – Theory of Computation and Programming Languages (3-0-3)
 - BU/CIS 277/IS 307 – Information Security Management, Policy, and Law (3-0-3)
 - CH 472 – Photochemistry (1-0-1)
 - CH 485 – Heterocycles (1-0-1)
 - EE 428 – Reverse Engineering (3-0-3)
 - CHI 307 – Popular Cultures in Modern Chinese Societies (3-0-3)
 - AS 343/4 – T-6 Virtual Reality Flight Simulation I and II (0.5-0.5-1)
 - PS 323 – Psychology of Achievement (3-0-3)

The Committee unanimously approved the proposed curricular changes.

7. State of the Academic Program

BG Moreschi reported on the following:

- Teaching and Research (T&R) Faculty Compensation

A new Peay Chair for Academic Excellence named for Bruce C. Gottwald, Jr. '81 will be awarded at the May Institute Awards Ceremony, which will provide additional funds for faculty salary adjustments. In addition, the Institute received the second annual \$1 million gift from the Herndon Fund. The Fund provides \$1 million annually, in perpetuity and subject to the availability of funds, to support faculty salaries in the STEM and Economics and Business departments. Approximately \$300K in faculty salary adjustments in the eligible departments were made using this Fund in fiscal year 2023, and approximately \$300K of this gift will be used to make additional salary adjustments in fiscal year 2024. The remainder of the gift will be placed in a contingency fund to weather potential, future financial market conditions that could negatively impact the annual gift.

- Administrative and Professional (A&P) Faculty Compensation

¹ The numbers following the course designations (i.e., 3-0-3) indicate the number of lecture hours, lab hours, and total credit hours associated with the course. So, a 3-0-3 designation means the course requires three hours of lecture each week, zero lab hours, and the course is worth three credit hours.

The Institute Compensation Committee, which developed and maintains the Teaching and Research (T&R) Faculty Compensation Model, was tasked with developing a similar model for A&P Faculty during the 22-23 AY. The Committee developed a model using a database of administrative and professional faculty salaries collected from the same schools that provide salary data used as the basis for the T&R Faculty Compensation Model. The Committee briefed the Superintendent on the model earlier this month and will brief BG Clark and LTC Young in early May.

- Women's Faculty Working Group

Five senior women faculty have been meeting throughout the academic year to discuss issues predominantly affecting women faculty. LTG Gwen Bingham (USA Ret.), holder of the Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr. '43 Visiting Chair in Leadership and Ethics, has been mentoring the group through monthly, virtual meetings and three Post visits. LTG Bingham has been very helpful to the group, and she has also been actively engaged with other women faculty and women cadets during her visits. The Group will meet with the Dean in May to discuss their recommendations as well as a course of action moving forward.

- Peay Scholars

Eight cadets will receive Peay merit scholarships for the 2023-24 AY – four upper class cadets and four new matriculants. Of the four upper class cadets, two are new awards – one to a rising first class and one to a rising second. These are in addition to two rising third class who are currently Peay Scholars. Of the four matriculating cadets to receive Peay scholarships, two made their decisions to attend VMI after receiving their scholarship award forgoing offers to attend Vanderbilt, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and the University of Michigan.

- SCHEV OFA

COL Spencer Bakich, Professor of International Studies and Political Science, received one of the twelve 2023 SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Awards (OFA). COL Bakich also runs the National Security minor program. The SCHEV OFA program is highly competitive with approximately 80-100 nominations from Virginia public and private colleges and universities received annually from which twelve awards are made.

Following BG Moreschi's report, LTC Young raised the issue of the "enrollment cliff," which is expected to impact future college enrollment. Demographically speaking, there will be a projected 15-25% reduction in the number of college eligible students by approximately 2025. In addition, he noted that Virginia Tech plans to increase the size of its Corps of Cadets from 1,200 to 2,000 in the coming years. Both factors could prove to be challenging to VMI in meeting our admissions goals, and he emphasized the importance of effectively marketing the value of a VMI education so that we may

continue to be competitive in the higher education marketplace.

Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 1159 hours.