



BOARD OF VISITORS

201 SMITH HALL, LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA 24450-0304

Minutes of the VMI Board of Visitors Executive Committee September 16, 2024

Executive Committee Members Present

John Adams '96
Teddy Gottwald '83
Kate Todd
Tom Watjen '76
Damon Williams '90

Others Board Members Present

Conrad Garcia

Others Present

Maj. Gen. Cedric Wins '85
Col. Bill Wyatt
Patrick O'Leary '90

1. John Adams '96, board president, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. He told the board Jamie Inman will be participating in the committees and full board remotely. He also said Meaghan Mobbs will not be on post until tomorrow.
2. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2024, and Sept. 10, 2024, Executive Committee meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Mr. Adams turned the meeting over to Maj. Gen. Cedric Wins '85, VMI's superintendent, who provided an updated to the Executive Committee. Maj. Gen. Wins gave the Executive Committee a brief preview of his presentation to be given to the full board the following day, Sept. 17. He said his presentation will include the following:
 - Highlights of summer activities and preview of the 2024-25 calendar;
 - Recap of the number of speakers who came to post during the 2023-24 academic year;
 - Update on matriculation and the superintendent's messages to cadets;
 - Share the updated VMI org chart and gave an update on new leaders in key positions;

Maj. Gen. Wins discussed policy recommendations received from the attorney general designed to strengthen Institute policies on protests. The Institute made changes to policies related to "time, place, and manner" restrictions and guidelines related to the use of tents on post based on the attorney general's recommendations.

The superintendent also highlighted an after-action report on the Washington and Lee bomb threat which occurred in July 2024. He said additional discussion of public safety issues would be had in the Audit, Finance, and Planning Committee. Teddy Gottwald said the committee was not able to get to public safety issues last year but it is at the top of the agenda for the committee this meeting.



Maj. Gen. Wins brought up the issue of the finals weeks schedule. He said the finals week sequence of events will be slightly different this year. In May, the change of command parade will come after the Memorial Parade. He said in years past, the change of command occurred before the Memorial Parade. Mr. Gottwald expressed concern for having cadets on post without many responsibilities noting the potential for cadets getting into trouble. The superintendent acknowledged Gottwald's concern, but he said most cadets will leave post after their last exam and return shortly before parade obligations.

4. John Adams introduced the topic of proposed bylaw changes. He said the Nominating and Governance Committee recommended changes to the Executive Committee. It is the Executive Committee's responsibility to bring the changes to the full board. Adams acknowledged and appreciated language proposed by Damon Williams and Tom Watjen. Adams said the sense of the committee was it was important to convey the language adopted by the committee is not the elimination of the Inclusive Excellence Committee but rather an expansion of the committee's oversight and jurisdiction. Watjen explained his language would have expressed the Institute's commitment to diversity and inclusion. No action was necessary for the proposed bylaw changes as amended by the Nominating and Governance Committee to move to the full board.
5. Teddy Gottwald mentioned he has had some discussions with David Prasnicky, CEO of the VMI alumni Agencies. The VMI Board of Visitors Bylaws say the board has oversight of gifts received by the Institute as well as other reporting requirements by the Agencies. Discussions on the appropriate process for oversight are ongoing.
6. A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.