

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
Lexington, Virginia
Minutes
BOARD OF VISITORS MEETING
31 May 2013

An electronic meeting of the VMI Board of Visitors was held in Lexington, Virginia with the primary remote location in the Superintendent's Office in Smith Hall on the VMI Post beginning at 1430 hours, Friday 31 May pursuant to notice.

Present at the Superintendent's Office:

Paul. D. Fraim '71, President
Brigadier General Janice G. Igou
General John P. Jumper '66
Kimber L. Latsha '77
Major General Daniel E. Long, Jr.
G. Marshall Mundy '56
George P. Ramsey III '72

Present via telephone conference:

Elizabeth D. Camp
P. Wesley Foster, Jr. '56
Paul E. Galanti
Bruce C. Gottwald, Jr. '81
W. Gregory Robertson '65
Ernesto V. Sampson '98
Dr. H. George White, Jr. '54

Absent: John C. Allen '62
George J. Collins '62
Major General Patricia P. Hickerson

1. Mr. Fraim presided and called the meeting to order at 1432 hours. Colonel Michael M. Strickler '71, Secretary to the Board of Visitors, recorded the minutes.

2. General J. H. Binford Peay III '62, Superintendent said that the Southern Conference spring meeting was held 28-30 May, and at the same time he and Mr. Donald T. White '65, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, attended the Big South Conference meetings. The Southern Conference extended an invitation to VMI to rejoin the league beginning with the 2014-2015 Academic Year (AY). They also extended an invitation to Mercer University and East Tennessee State University, and both schools have already accepted. General Peay told Southern Conference officials that the VMI Board of Visitors would need to vote on the bid.

3. Coach White reviewed the current (2013-2014) and anticipated (2014-2015) Conference memberships for both the Big South and the Southern. The Southern Conference will lose College of Charleston, Georgia Southern, Appalachian State, Davidson, and Elon after AY 2013-2014. With the addition of Mercer, which will transition to scholarship football, and East Tennessee State, which will reinstate its football program, there will be nine schools (if VMI joins the Conference) playing football in AY 2014-2015...U.T.-Chattanooga, Western Carolina, The Citadel, Furman, Wofford, Samford, VMI, Mercer, and East Tennessee State. The Big South has added Monmouth University for football for AY 2014-2015 which would give the Conference six football schools (seven if VMI remains). However, Coastal Carolina and Liberty have made it known that they are seeking affiliation with a BCS (Bowl Championship Series) Conference. This chart is included with the minutes of this meeting as an **Appendix**.

4. **Entered into Closed Session:** A motion was made by Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Mundy, to enter into a Closed Meeting. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously, and the Board entered into Closed Session at 1444 hours to discuss:

1. Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected (pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A) 6) and discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body (pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A) 29) regarding a potential athletic contract.
 2. Consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel (pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A) 7) relating to discussions with a VMI alumnae.
 3. Disciplinary and other matters involving specific cadets, and individuals (pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A) 2) relating to an honor court case.
 4. Personnel matters involving specific individual employees related to assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, discipline, resignations, or salaries; pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A) 1), through the Office of the Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of the Faculty.
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5. **Return to Open Meeting:** At 1527 hours, a motion was made by Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Latsha, to certifying the Closed Meeting. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Mr. Robertson asked if VMI had considered the Atlantic 10 Conference to which Davidson was moving. Coach White said that there was no interest in VMI by the Atlantic 10.

Coach White also noted that the Southern Conference was disappointed in losing both long time member Davidson as well as Elon. However, the decision was that of the colleges not the Southern Conference. Mr. Fraim spoke highly of the Southern Conference which had been VMI's home for more than 75 years before joining the Big South. He noted that we have much more in common with the Southern Conference schools in size and academic quality and that five of the football playing schools have enrollments of less than 5,000 students and four less than 3,000. General Peay strongly recommended that VMI rejoin the Southern Conference and that Mr. Fraim, Mr. Ramsey (BOV President –elect), Mr. Mundy, Chair of the BOV Athletic Committee, and Coach White were also strongly in favor of the move.

7. Mr. Ramsey made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Mundy: that the Board of Visitors accept on behalf of VMI the bid from the Southern Conference to join the league, for the majority of its athletic teams in the sports sponsored by the Conference, effective with the 2014-2015 Academic Year. Mr. Fraim asked for further discussion and there was none. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

8. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1535 hours.

Michael M. Strickler '71
Secretary