

To our Brother Rats of the Class of 1974

20 MAR 2023

For those who have not read our original letter and its underlying supporting documentation, you can access it at this link: https://thecadetfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/VMI_74_BR_LetterS.pdf

In response to MG Wins' 1 Feb 23 letter to the Class of 1974 through our 50th Reunion Committee, we offer this rebuttal:

Nobody loves VMI more than its Alumni - and we truly believe that includes MG Cedric Wins, our Superintendent. But MG Wins' February 1, 2023 letter fails to directly address any of the thoroughly documented issues we discussed with our Brother Rats in our reasoned 16 JAN 2023 request to our classmates to redirect any individual donations to our reunion committee from the VMI Alumni Agencies (AA) to The Cadet Foundation - an approved 501(c)(3).

MG Wins' letter is filled with deflections and misstatements on what we wrote. The most egregious is the false and inaccurate statement regarding the very nature of our letter. It accuses five members of the Class of 1974 of bringing politics to the VMI Post. To be clear, Governor Northam brought politics to VMI, not select members of the Class of 1974.

The letter states " ...Essentially, these five Alumni are asking you to withhold your donations in order to punish the Institute and withdraw funding from cadets for political or other reasons beyond its control." He goes on to say " ...Much of the information provided in [our] JAN 16 letter is misleading. First and foremost, withholding your giving from the VMI Alumni Agencies ultimately hurts the Corps of Cadets."

We very respectfully believe MG Wins is unfortunately misinformed on a number of issues resulting in multiple missteps that have alienated large numbers of Alumni donors. We also believe this is not entirely his fault. Had MG Wins arrived as part of a normal transition with GEN Peay, we would not have experienced the cancellation/ rebranding of New Market Day; we would not have ever seriously discussed the removal of that famous mural depicting the VMI cadets making their fateful charge at New Market from Jackson Memorial Hall. We would not have countenanced the removal of Jackson's statue from the VMI Post or the removal of his name from JM Hall, or the chiseling of his name from Jackson Arch, a part of barracks (a National Historic Landmark) that cannot be altered without the approval of the National Historic Commission. We would not have approved the invitation to Ms. Kimberley Dark to address our young impressionable cadets or hired Dr. Jamica Love to spread the divisive and irrational ideology known as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Our original letter provides extensive supporting documentation showing DEI instruction contains many of the tenants of Critical Race Theory (CRT), a divisive and racist ideology being rejected throughout the country. Even though VMI rebranded

their DEI initiatives as “Inclusive Excellence,” it still sows discord and disunity, and undermines unit cohesion in both the Rat class and the entire Corps of Cadets.

To be clear, although VMI would have us believe MG Wins and his administration created Inclusive Excellence tailored to the VMI experience, there is evidence to the contrary. Inclusive Excellence itself was a Gov Northam administration political agenda, embodied in his 2021 Strategic Plan to re-define Virginia’s history¹ and, for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education, “implementing the strategic Inclusive Excellence (IE) framework to synergize and support our collective diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging efforts. The collaborative IE model for organizational change has been a national movement in postsecondary education (and) calls for higher education to address diversity, inclusion, and equity as critical to achieving excellence.”²

Dr. Janice Underwood, Northam’s own DEI Director, highly praised by MG Wins and BOV said it all, “Using the **Inclusive Excellence** framework, ONE Virginia will help implement tangible reforms that interrupt **long-held systems of structural inequity to create sustainable change, innovation,** and productivity across state government, throughout Virginia, and around our country,”³ [emphasis added].

Elements of divisive ideology, including some from CRT, are embedded throughout by definition and description. **THIS** is VMI’s “Inclusive Excellence”, but you will not hear this from the VMI administration.

MG Wins states that VMI is constantly evolving. But as a highly regarded VMI alumna, **Ms. Lara Chambers '03, expressed** at the 24 OCT 2022 BOV meeting, there is no indication the introduction of CRT/DEI is doing any good, and she made the point (***on the record***) **on behalf of the BRs in her own class that CRT/DEI may be doing more harm than good at VMI.**

This nation has always prided itself on its diversity of races and cultures coming together in a melting pot to form one people, with American ideals, American values and American principles. The VMI experience (specifically the Rat Line) has always reinforced this ideology through an education that teaches love of country, and caring for all Americans (BRs) equally; common ideas that bring us all together as a nation (*E Pluribus Unum*); not training that divides us into categories of privileged v. unprivileged, oppressed v. oppressor, rich v. poor, etc. Inclusive Excellence training subverts the goal of the Ratline in bringing together cadets of diverse backgrounds by teaching us to focus on our differences

¹ <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ONE-DHR-Plan.pdf>

² <https://dei.virginia.edu/inclusive-excellence>

³ <https://www.nbc12.com/2021/02/28/northam-introduces-first-ever-statewide-plan-advancing-diversity-inclusion/>

instead.

There are other concerns we addressed in our original letter that MG Wins failed to cover in his response. The abrupt departure of the beloved former Director of Admissions (and his Deputy) is one concern. Another issue we addressed in our letter was why VMI is not making a concerted effort to hire more VMI Alumni as professors. The number of VMI Alumni who currently serve as Professors is at a dismal low in our school's history. How can academia at VMI support the mission of producing citizen-soldiers when they have no clue as to barracks culture, the rank and class systems, and a single sanction Honor Court? Moreover, the number of Alumni filling Alumni Agency leadership positions has also dramatically fallen to new lows. How can such leadership ensure the undying interests of all Alumni are faithfully supported – unless, of course, those Agencies are now little more than fund raising appendages of the VMI Administration.

*Our first thought in answering the Wins' letter was to respond and refute it point by point. But, in the interest of brevity, we will attempt to focus on the main issues below.

Here are some of the main concerns:

Page 1 of the Wins' letter states, "Essentially, these five Alumni are asking you to withhold your donations in order to punish the Institute and withdraw funding from cadets for political or other reasons beyond its control."

This is absolutely NOT the case. **The Institute is losing money for its cadets every day under the present BOV.** We are NOT advocating withholding donations from VMI or withdrawing funding from cadets. Our concerns are just the opposite. So many Alumni are so dismayed at the direction VMI is pursuing that they are withholding their donations. **A bequest of \$1 million dollars has been withdrawn by one alumnus and a \$900,000 pledge was redirected to a non-VMI charity by another. One entire class has largely halted their donations - and others will follow if VMI does not correct its course.** Many Alumni are also unhappy that the funding being sent by us is supporting unearned bonuses, and favored teams. We believe that under the legal doctrine of "cy-pres", the VMI AA, in collaboration with the Commandant's Office, may be withholding Alumni donations or redirecting them to other activities not originally intended by the donor. If so, these actions would NOT be supporting cadets equally or as directed by donors.

Anyone who actually read our letter knows this to be totally false! We clearly state, in several parts of our letter, that **we do NOT want donations to stop.** In fact, we begin by pointing out that donations to VMI are down because of the divisiveness instituted by this activist administration; and **we ask that those that abandoned VMI return to donating so that the cadets are not harmed. We offer a middle ground; a solution to continue helping cadets via The Cadet**

Foundation, bypassing a potentially errant organization like the VMI AA that gets its direction and priorities from the BOV and Superintendent - not the Alumni - and has lost the trust and confidence of many Alumni.

*****For these reasons, we advocate that our Class of 1974 50th reunion gift be redirected (not withheld) to The Cadet Foundation - all \$19.74M!**

As stated on page 1, "The challenges of the Rat Line, the authority of the Corps to lead itself through its regimental and class system, and the premium placed on honor and enforced by each class remain steadfast and rock solid."

If that is the case why are cadets with over hundreds of demerits, including NCAA athletes with as many as 400 - 500, according to some reports we received from cadets and parents, not being expelled from VMI? In a recent Town Hall, MG Wins was asked this question directly, but seems surprised at the number of demerits being alluded to and said he didn't know. However he added that he will "continue to evaluate that...(and) get the recommendations from the commandant on whether or not a young man is adhering to and compatible to VMI based on what they're doing and how they're performing."

Also, why are cadets being allowed to stay on after already receiving one warning of an honor court violation?

As stated on page 2, "Public and private colleges, public and private businesses, the military, and federal and have ongoing initiatives to recognize the diversity in their organizations and the necessity of understanding the value that it brings."

As stated above, although DEI has woven itself into the Federal Govt as well as academia, we believe people are seeing its negative effects. As one state legislator stated recently, "DEI bureaucracies at our institutions of higher education have been used to impose ideological conformity and promote far-left political activism." So far at least 30 states have, or are working to, ban CRT/DEI from their institutions of higher learning; and many universities have already done so in several states to include most recently Texas A&M and the entire University of North Carolina system. We believe we are one election away from having this divisive ideology banned from all federal agencies as well as the DoD. We believe DEI has run its course and VMI should be climbing off this discredited "band wagon."

As stated on page 2, "Our goal is for our Inclusive Excellence training, in conjunction with cadets' academic and leadership training, to better prepare them for the diversity and realities they will experience after graduation."

Let's be clear. The word "diversity" has been redefined by the DEI/IE ideologues. It no longer includes diversity of thought. Rather it seeks to cancel differing

opinions and eliminate any opposing views that differs from its own ideology. If this is not the case, why then does MG Wins state that cadets are required to attend DEI training but not participate, yet DEI/IE facilitators are directed in their Facilitators Handbook to report to the VMI Administration those cadets that attend but do not respond positively to DEI/IE instruction or use their cell phones during the sessions? If attendance at DEI/IE training is required but participation is optional, as MG Wins repeatedly stated, and instruction is merely to introduce the Corps to the differing/divergent viewpoints of underrepresented communities, why then are facilitators directed to report cadets who either do not wish to participate or challenge the instruction? Is it to exclude them from future leadership roles in the Corps of Cadets? That does not sound very "inclusive" or "tolerant" of differing views. **Furthermore, we believe this ideological indoctrination is political in nature, whereas our desire is to absolutely remove this ideology from the VMI experience.**

We believe that DEI training is divisive and promotes disunity. Teaching what DEI "is" may be one thing. Teaching cadets to accept and implement this ideology going forward is another. We are preparing future leaders, not followers. Our graduates should be able to understand what the social mores are and what they will see when they join the armed services, or whatever civilian profession they pursue. But, as leaders, they should set the example and by their actions show their followers that American values, VMI values, stress EQUALITY of opportunity, not equity of outcome; and diversity and inclusion must also mean diversity and inclusion of ideas, not just physical traits that are a product of birth. They must show that successful organizations are made stronger through a meritocracy, and a strong nation should have a color-blind society that promotes equality of opportunity and merit-based promotion regardless of race, sex, religion, ethnicity, social status, etc. Instead of bonding a class together (*E Pluribus Unum*) like the Rat Line should do, this DEI-based ideology undermines cohesion/class unity, and instead sows discord into the Rat and upper classes.

As stated on page 2, "Also unchanged is our Honor Code. Though the Honor System continues to evolve as it has throughout the history of the Institute, the Honor Code – upheld by all cadets, investigated and enforced by the cadets on the Honor Court – is still the cornerstone of the VMI experience."

MG Wins assures us there will be no changes to the Honor Code. *But the Honor Code is not the issue.* Rather, **MG Wins is "evolving" the Honor System**, and he is using semantics to avoid answering our questions as to why the changes are being made to our "Honor System."

Our 16 JAN letter addresses proposed changes to the "Honor System" that MG Wins did not dispute in his reply. We clearly point out (and document) that changes are being implemented based on the Barnes and Thornburg report. Even though evidence outlined in the report demonstrated the Honor System

performed as designed and without bias, changes were made in the name of “equity” and “DEI.” **So, if the system performed flawlessly with no “impropriety or unfair treatment among the 91 cases that resulted in a finding of guilty,” then why is MG Wins implementing changes in the name of DEI?** Why increase the jury size from 8 to 12, increasing the potential for jury nullification? Why increase the random jury pool from 24 to 36 and allow a member not selected from the pool to be allowed to observe a trial at the Superintendent’s discretion in order to achieve a “desired diversity mix?” If we are forcing DEI into the Honor System, we are moved from “justice” to “Social Justice.” Is this addressed by the Superintendent in his response? No. He merely provides assurances that the “Honor Code” has not changed. Yet, MG Wins supports “evolving” the Honor System, but doesn’t explain how - or more importantly - why?

***If the Court is controlled by cadets for cadets, why then is the VMI Administration tampering with its composition? Afterall, changes should have a purpose.**

At VMI, Honor Court members are elected. The VMI Administration’s plan to “evolve” our Honor System to ensure “diversity” in its deliberations is certainly more than a simple, cadet driven solution. **Cadets no longer control the Honor Court if the Administration is calling the shots on who sits on the Honor Court.**

This statement overlooks the recent changes that give additional authority to the Superintendent while at the same time, some of it being relinquished by the Honor Court. As we pointed out in our previous correspondence, enabling a drummed out individual to testify in a different case with Superintendent’s approval should alarm every alumnus. We also believe that it is the President of the Honor Court that should determine whether a member not selected from the jury pool should be allowed to observe a trial or extend the time allotted to prepare a defense beyond 21 days.

In the recent Town Hall meeting hosted by the Alumni Association, a question was asked in regard to the 5 pretrial cases resulting in only 2 dismissals, or a 40 percent success rate. The Superintendent conveyed that he is “satisfied with the process” and that it is “working well.” Given the thoroughness of investigations and all the oversight that the Superintendent himself is involved in, we would not be satisfied with such a low percentage of dismissals and recommend that a thorough review be performed to determine what may have been overlooked in the process. **Our primary concern rests in the belief that with this kind of result and a potential greater risk for jury nullification given the 80% increase in the number of jurors (5 to 9) to render a guilty verdict,** the Corps may lose confidence in the Honor System. If that occurs, VMI ceases to be VMI.

As stated on Page 2, "The 50 minutes of Inclusive Excellence training our cadets receive each year allows them to practice critical thinking skills and to work productively with others who may have differing opinions, backgrounds, cultures, ethnicities, gender, etc. That training, both in time and topic, mirrors similar training in sexual harassment/assault and bystander intervention. In keeping with our statement on free speech, all ideas are encouraged and welcomed at the training."

The VMI Administration apparently confuses "critical thinking" with "Critical Theory." **Critical thinking** is a rich concept that has been developing throughout the past 2,500 years. As Defined by the National Council for Excellence in Critical Thinking, "Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action. In its exemplary form, it is based on universal intellectual values that transcend subject matter divisions: clarity, accuracy, precision, consistency, relevance, sound evidence, good reasons, depth, breadth, and fairness."

MG Win's response to our letter, condemning any and all who are critical of his DEI/IE efforts, and the policy where cadets are reported to the DEI/IE office for not sufficiently participating or too vigorously arguing against DEI/IE classes, are in direct opposition to Critical Thinking!

Critical Theory (the basis from which CRT, and thus DEI is derived) draws on the ideas of Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud, and preaches a doctrine that certain structures are used to dominate and oppress minorities, and must be overcome before true progress can occur. This is at the heart of CRT/DEI and hence, Inclusive Excellence.

As stated on page 3, "In contrast, the Alumni Agencies have a proven track record of a solid management structure, internal controls, accounting practices, investment management, compliance, and audit capability...The VMI Alumni Agencies has a long history of providing financial support to clubs and organizations while helping raise money over and above the generous funding provided by the Institute."

To be clear, even the Barnes & Thornburg (B&T) report was critical of the VMI AA and its transparency regarding funds. For example, it called for:

- Greater transparency in the Alumni Agencies' fundraising sources and funding decisions.
- "VMI should collect and publish detailed financial information from the Alumni Agencies on how funds are raised and spent, including the source of the funds and any earmarks."

- “VMI did not produce the memoranda of understanding it has with the Alumni Agencies relating to funds from their component alumni associations. The Alumni Agencies, in turn, also declined to provide these memoranda of understanding, or any documents at all on their finances or expenditures.” What are they hiding?

MG Win’s letter further explains the good being done by monies provided to the administration to invest in “faculty and programs” ...”to meet the operational needs of the institute...” And this is one of the critical issues we have with the VMI AA. Are they using Alumni donations to fund DEI personnel and programs that donors may object to? We don’t know because there is little to no transparency with regard to “specifically” what the money is being used for. It all falls under “operating budget” but is not broken out by program or positions. And since state money cannot be used to fund DEI, one can make the assumption it is likely funded by monies provided by the VMI AA. By donating through The Cadet Foundation, Alumni can be assured their donations will go to help cadets, not an administration priority like DEI.

We are concerned as to why funds directed towards club sports like the Hockey Team and Rugby Team are not being disbursed by the Commandant's Office to their Team Captains? Why also have two scholarships in the names of Stonewall Jackson and Sir Moses Ezekiel not been distributed to qualifying VMI cadets? We believe that under the legal doctrine of "*cy-pres*", the VMI AA, in collaboration with the Commandant's Office, maybe withholding donations or redirecting them to other activities not originally intended by the donor. If true, these actions are NOT supporting cadets equally or as directed by donors

On page 3 of the Wins' letter it states, "Despite its original mission to support the new newspaper, The Cadet Foundation has seemingly morphed into an organization that seeks to provide monetary and in-kind support for VMI clubs and organizations."

Page 3 of MG Wins’ letter deals in large part with accusations regarding The Cadet Foundation (TCF) and The Cadet newspaper. Not being members of TCF or its Board of Directors, we requested the Chief Operating Officer of TCF to provide his responses which you will find at the attached Enclosure, below.

In summation, VMI needs to return its focus on being about this nation's inherent goodness while acknowledging its flaws. In our view, the last 2 plus years has focused on the flaws with a reluctance to acknowledge the inherent goodness. This DEI focus is inconsistent with binding together the Rat Class, the Corps of Cadets, and our mission of producing citizen-soldiers that are "advocates of the American Democracy and the free enterprise system." We need to be able to engage in critical thinking, reasoned debate, fact-based discussions based on empirical data, and have the moral courage to act. Our philosophy should be

to treat others as you wish to be treated - not DEI. You don't need a DEI office (at the cost of \$800K+) for that. Just think of the hundreds of thousands of dollars that could be spent elsewhere on what cadets truly require. We don't need facilitators or classroom exercises for that to happen, but merely mutual respect and a willingness to talk to one another.

**We call upon the VMI BOV and Superintendent, as follows:

1. Remove CRT/DEI/ Inclusive Excellence training at VMI and redirect the additional \$800,000 requested on this initiative to other much needed VMI activities as endorsed by VMI alumna Lara Chambers '03 at the 24 OCT 2022 BOV Executive Committee meeting.
2. Restore New Market Day as a celebration of what it has always been: the valor, tenacity, courage, fortitude, resilience, resolve, strength, endurance under pressure and bravery of a crowd of honorable youths who did everything expected of them by their parents, professors, and Native State. However, we agree with the initiative, started under the previous administration, to expand ceremonies to honor all VMI alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice, but this should not be at the expense of erasing or sending into obscurity what W&L scholar David Roger Loope's so elegantly stated: "The Battle of New Market... gave VMI a substantive past separate from, yet tethered to, Virginia history and the history of the South."
3. Don't erase sections of VMI history based on its affiliation to the antebellum South and participation in the American Civil War. Rather, add contextual commentary where appropriate to ensure cadets learn from the past, not ignore it or dismiss it.
4. Reverse VMI's current "selective approach" to history by both restoring antebellum related artifacts and, more importantly, **expanding** the museum, iconography, and memorials to embrace **all of VMI's rich history** by all races, genders and ethnic backgrounds - as recommended by the Corps as far back as following integration at VMI in the 1960s.
5. Work with The Cadet Foundation to provide donations to cadets and cadet activities, not in any way conflicting with the law or NCAA requirements, and even in coordination with the VMI Administration and the Alumni Agencies as both The Cadet Foundation and our original letter requested.
6. As was the plan prior to the current administration, relocate the Sir Moses Ezekiel statue of Stonewall Jackson to a location at VMI that meets its original intent to recognize the Corps of Cadets and make the center-piece of the former Jackson Arch a tribute to VMI's honor code and system.

7. Restore the Stonewall Jackson award for physics at graduation as VMI did with restoring the Sir Moses Ezekiel award immediately after our initial letter.
8. Initiate a concerted effort to hire more VMI Alumni as Professors at our beloved school.
9. Formally endorse placing VMI Alumni in all key and other leadership positions at the Alumni Agencies.

Submitted this day by the undersigned members of the Class of 1974:

Ron Stelmasczyk, Gene Rice, James Cottrell, Mike Andriani, John Williams

ENCL to '74 Letter in Response to MG Wins

The following information was collected by non-profit and other Subject Matter Experts then provided by The Cadet Foundation (TCF) in response to MG Wins' 1 Feb 23 letter to the Class of '74. We offer the below for consideration in determining the credibility of information and/or accusations made by MG Wins in his letter.

Page 3 of MG Wins' letter to the Class of '74 attacks The Cadet Foundation and The Cadet Newspaper. Below are his accusations/misrepresentations and the response from TCF.

- a. **MG Wins:** "The Cadet Foundation was started to support a new iteration of a VMI newspaper...The paper **operates at the direction** of their alumni "mentor" ... **We believe this publication serves as a megaphone for the alumnus' personal political views**, and there are many examples of how the new paper, under the alumnus' direction, **refuses to operate under any generally accepted journalistic principles or standards.**" [emphasis added]

Response: There are too many false and uncharacteristically inaccurate elements of these statements to cover here. **Some examples:**

The Cadet is not a "new" newspaper. The Commonwealth of Virginia and others recognize the current incarnation of *The Cadet* as a restart of the original publication created by cadets and alumni, completely independent of VMI and the AA, in 1871 in magazine format. It transitioned to newspaper format in 1907, **was eventually shut down** by the administration under Gen. Peay, then brought back by Cadets, working with alumni. Since its restart in 2016, the journalistic products of its cadet staff received recognition with the Virginia Press Association Awards, competing against major newspapers in Virginia, and the William F. Buckley Award. *The Cadet* was praised by Gov Younkin on their 115th anniversary, and the Virginia House and Senate jointly passed a resolution commending it, stating that independent papers like *The Cadet* where students have complete editorial control of content separate from influence or control are essential voices of independent free speech."

MG Wins fails to cite a single one of the "many examples" he alleges that *The Cadet* "**refuses to operate under any generally accepted journalistic principles or standards**". The facts are that the newspaper, competing against other major mainstream newspapers in Virginia, recently won some eight prestigious VPA journalism awards. These include several First-Place awards for investigative journalism

and editorials for the very same articles VMI levied the unethical allegations against. Another is for balanced coverage of the DEI/IE issues at VMI for which MG Wins condemns them.

- b. **MG Wins:** "According to State Corporation Commission records available on the date of this letter, The Cadet Foundation is currently made up of two people occupying three director seats" [emphasis added]

Response: This statement is uncharacteristically inaccurate. MG Wins, attempting to create a negative perception of The Cadet Foundation by highlighting its SCC Business Entity Listing, is not reflective of the functioning organization. When looking at the same SCC listing for the VMI Foundation and VMI Keydet Club, The Cadet Foundation actually has **more officer positions** than the VMI Foundation and VMI Keydet Club. Trying to infer a less-than-efficient operating organization by the Business Listing is sophomoric and completely skewed.

Applying the MG Wins' explanation and standard viewing the SCC registry listing, The Cadet Foundation could be viewed as being better organized than both the VMI Foundation and Keydet Club.

- c. **MG Wins:** "According to State Corporation Commission (SCC) records available on the date of this letter, The Cadet Foundation is currently made up of two people occupying three director seats" [emphasis added].

This statement is uncharacteristically inaccurate. MG Wins, attempting to create a negative perception of The Cadet Foundation by highlighting its SCC Business Entity Listing, is not reflective of the functioning organization. When looking at the same SCC listing for the VMI Foundation and VMI Keydet Club, The Cadet Foundation actually has **more officer positions** than the VMI Foundation and VMI Keydet Club. Trying to infer a less-than-efficient operating organization by the Business Listing is sophomoric and completely skewed.

Applying the MG Wins' explanation and standard viewing the SCC registry listing, The Cadet Foundation could be viewed as being better organized than both the VMI Foundation and Keydet Club.

- d. **MG Wins:** "The Cadet Foundation... seeks to provide monetary and in-kind support for VMI clubs and organizations. However, there are

many state, federal, or NCAA rules that come into play when providing direct support to cadets.” [emphasis added]

Response: This statement is uncharacteristically inaccurate, and again infers wrong-doing where there was and is none. The programs planned and those previously conducted by The Cadet Foundation were compliant with Federal and State laws. The Cadet Foundation, and our program with them, specifically **excludes any** support to NCAA sports so there is no conflict. Club Sports (VMI Hockey) are specifically excluded from NCAA rules per the NCAA. The truth is that club sports and all other Non-NCAA activities supporting cadets are exempt from NCAA rules.

e. **MG Wins:** "Despite its original mission to support the new newspaper, The Cadet Foundation has seemingly morphed into an organization that seeks to provide monetary and in-kind support for VMI clubs and organizations."

Response: This statement is uncharacteristically inaccurate. The Cadet Foundation is a bona-fide 501(c)(3) charitable organization recognized by the Federal Government with an overall mission of supporting VMI cadets. Its IRS approval includes all activities it currently engages in and will do under our proposal. VMI and the AA do not want you to know this so they carefully say “seemingly morphed” to imply some nefarious and illegal purpose that is not true.

It has supported *The Cadet* newspaper because the VMI Administration has refused to do. To be clear, the VMI Administration seek to control the content and messaging of the newspaper – which is an abridgement of freedom of speech. The Administration refuses to even issue a permit to its cadet editor and other staff allowing them to leave Post to publish the paper using uptown Lexington resources. The Cadet Foundation also supports the VMI Hockey Club and other activities “overlooked” by the VMI Administration.

Lastly, The Cadet Foundation **offered to partner with the VMI AA and also offered the Commandant of Cadets a non-voting seat on its Board of Advisors** to ensure the broadest possible support to cadets.

BOTH offers were rejected out of hand by VMI and the VMI AA.

There are many other inaccuracies, misleading and outright false statements in MG Wins’ response regarding The Cadet and the Cadet Foundation that are too numerous to address in a short response.