

## **Additional Questions to the Virginia Democratic Caucus**

Following its commitment to answer any additional questions after the June 28, 2025 Press Conference, The Cadet submitted the following questions to the Virginia Democratic Caucus. Responses will be updated once received:

1. If the new UVA President or incoming VMI Superintendent do not align with your caucus's DEI-related goals, will you use legislative authority to remove them or override their appointments through Board restructuring or leadership change? Do you see your caucus returning Maj. Gen. Wins and/or Mr. Ryan to their positions or others such as appointing them to be BOV Members themselves if you retain the majority in the General Assembly and win the Governor's race?
2. Were any decisions to remove prior Board of Visitors members or to reject Governor Youngkin's recent nominees influenced by the fact that an individual was not Black, or by a belief that increasing Black representation on governing boards is necessary to advance DEI goals or the doctrine of 'Inclusive Excellence' as outlined in institutional strategic plans? More broadly, do you consider race—specifically increasing Black representation—a factor or qualification in evaluating nominees for Boards of Visitors at institutions such as VMI or UVA, and was this criterion used in any recent appointment or confirmation decisions?"
3. Under Virginia Code, gubernatorial appointments to Boards of Visitors are subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, not solely the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections. Historically, the individual Senate and House committee recommendations have not constituted final disposition until the vote by the full General Assembly. Given this, and in light of Senator Surovell's recent assertion that Senate Committee inaction bars further advancement, do you believe the Committee possesses unilateral authority to block a nominee from consideration by the full General Assembly? If so, what is your constitutional or statutory basis for that claim?
4. Do you attribute the resignation of President Ryan from UVA and the non-renewal of Maj. Gen. Wins' contract at VMI to pressure from the Trump administration and its allies. If so, do you have evidence of direct involvement by President Trump, his campaign, or federal agencies in these decisions?
5. Maj. Gen. Wins has stated that his contract was not renewed due to "bias, emotion, and ideology." In your view, was race or Maj. Gen. Wins' support for DEI a deciding factor in the Board's decision, and has Maj. Gen. Wins affirmed this interpretation publicly or privately to your caucus? Does the VMI Board's decision show VMI is still structurally ractis as members of Governor Northam's administration claimed to initiate the Barnes and Thornburg investigation?
6. Do you possess independent verification—beyond the reporting of the New York Times—of any claim that President Ryan's resignation was coerced by the Trump Department of Justice or federal officials? If so, will you make that evidence public?

7. In addition to the recently filed litigation against university Board Presidents, are you preparing any legal challenge against the federal government or Trump administration related to Executive Orders 14151 or 14173, the OCR Dear Colleague Letter, the Secretary of Defense memorandum, or the interference with Virginia Colleges and Universities you allege? If so, on what constitutional or statutory grounds will those claims be based, and what relief do you intend to seek?