

## **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2016, ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

The Advancement Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) held a teleconference meeting on January 6, 2016. Participating were Committee Chair Alan G. Spoon and Committee members Ambassador Barbara Barrett; Sakurako Fisher; Adrienne Mars; John W. McCarter, Jr.; Paul Neely; and Christine Udvar-Hazy.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary David Skorton; Acting Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Office of the Regents Senior Researcher & Writer Jennifer Ehlinger (recorder); Smithsonian Campaign Director Cynthia Brandt-Stover; Assistant Secretary for Advancement Virginia Clark; Deputy Director of the Office of Advancement Zully Dorr; Under Secretary for Finance and Administration/Chief Financial Officer Albert Horvath; General Counsel Judith Leonard; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Alan Spoon called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. He welcomed the Committee members and Smithsonian staff.

Mr. Spoon provided the Committee with updates on important dates and upcoming events. He then reviewed the meeting agenda and highlighted goals for 2016.

### **APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 30, 2015, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the November 30, 2015, Committee meeting were approved with modification.

### **CAMPAIGN PROGRESS**

Assistant Secretary for Advancement Virginia Clark provided an update on the progress of the Smithsonian Campaign (“Campaign”). Ms. Clark reported that at the end of December, the Campaign had raised \$1.32 billion, which is 88 percent of the total goal. Fundraising for the National Museum of African American History and Culture (“NMAAHC”) is on track, with more than \$245.9 million raised in gifts and commitments at the end of December. Overall fundraising efforts for the Smithsonian are also on pace, with \$58.9 million of the \$250 million goal raised in the first quarter of the fiscal year.

### **SECRETARY’S PRIORITIES**

Secretary Skorton discussed fundraising priorities with the Committee and presented a new fundraising initiative called the “Smithsonian Secretary’s Scholars”. The program’s aim is to enhance the Smithsonian’s creative and intellectual workforce by funding 40 new positions in the curatorial, conservation, research, and science fields. The positions would have initial term-limits of five years, with the goal of funding the positions for a longer period of time. The

program would be a new initiative for the Campaign.. The Secretary highlighted the importance of this effort and pointed out that the Smithsonian's creative workforce has decreased, while at the same time, its collections have grown. Without the knowledge and expertise of curators, conservators, researchers, and scientists, these treasured Smithsonian collections will be merely objects with no context or purpose.

The Secretary will continue to work with the Office of Advancement to refine the program and develop an effective roll-out plan, to include focused recruitment, training, and fostering a strong sense of community amongst Smithsonian's creative workforce.

## **REVIEW OF NOTABLE GIFTS AND GRANTS**

Ms. Clark presented one gift requiring approval by the Committee, and noted that it conforms to all Smithsonian gift policies. Upon duly made and seconded, the following action was approved for recommendation to the Board of Regents:

**VOTED** that the Advancement Committee recommends that the Board of Regents recognizes the generosity of Lilly Endowment, Inc. to the National Museum of African American History and Culture and accepts the gift and creates an endowment to support the Center for the Study of African American Religion.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan G. Spoon, Chair