

## **MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11, 2013, MORNING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met on April 11, 2013, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Participating were Executive Committee and Board Chair France A. Córdova, Vice Chair John W. McCarter Jr., and Committee member Shirley Ann Jackson.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary G. Wayne Clough; Counselor to the Chief Justice Jeffrey P. Minear; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia Bartlett; Under Secretary for Finance and Administration/Chief Financial Officer Al Horvath; Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Director of Communications and External Affairs Evelyn Lieberman; and Director of Government Relations Nell Payne.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Córdova called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

### **APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 10, FEBRUARY 4, AND MARCH 11, 2013, MEETING MINUTES**

The Committee approved the draft minutes of the January 10, February 4, and March 11, 2013, Committee meetings.

### **FINANCE UNITS RE-ORGANIZATION**

Mr. Horvath provided the Committee with an overview of his plans to create an Office of Finance and Accounting by combining the functions of the current offices of the Treasurer and the Comptroller.

### **L’ENFANT PLAZA LEASE EXTENSION**

Dr. Córdova explained that Regent policy provides that the Executive Committee approve real estate transactions on behalf of the Board with a new present value of between \$5 million and \$10 million. She noted that in fiscal year 2012, the Smithsonian was appropriated almost \$34 million and spend an addition \$10.7 million in Trust funds for rent. Excluding facilities in Panama, she noted, the Smithsonian rents approximately 1.7 million square feet of space. Mr. Horvath has assumed oversight of an ongoing effort to rationalize the Smithsonian’s rented administrative and office space in the Washington metropolitan area. Leases in and around Washington, D.C., have been, and are being, negotiated to expire in 2021.

Mr. Lapiana noted that the current request regarding the extension of a lease at L’Enfant Plaza for certain smaller Smithsonian units was reviewed and vetted by Facilities Committee Chair Robert Kogod. Following brief discussion, the Committee approved the following motion:

**VOTED** that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, approves the Secretary's request for authority to lease approximately 22,777 rentable square feet of administrative space for the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, Smithsonian Affiliations, and the Office of Fellowships and Internships at 470/490 L'Enfant Plaza North, SW, Washington, D.C. 20024.

#### **NAMING IN HONOR OF SENATOR DANIEL INOUYE**

Dr. Córdova explained that the Board of Trustees and leadership of the National Museum of the American Indian have proposed naming the director's terrace at the museum in honor of Senator Daniel Inouye. She noted that at the Regents' January 24, 2013, meeting, the Board approved a motion expressing the Board's appreciation of Senator Inouye's contributions to the nation and to the Smithsonian. After brief discussion on the museum's request, the Committee approved the following motion:

**VOTED** that the Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Regents approve the naming of the National Museum of the American Indian's Director's Terrace in honor of Senator Daniel K. Inouye.

#### **SECRETARY'S UPDATE**

**Wright Brothers.** Before Dr. Clough began his report, Dr. Córdova notified the Committee that she had received a letter questioning the Smithsonian's objectivity regarding whether the Wright Brothers were actually the first to fly a heavier-than-air vehicle. The letter alleges that, because the Smithsonian purchased the Wright Flyer for \$1 in 1948 and in the purchase contract acknowledged the Wright Brothers' primacy, the Smithsonian is biased in its comments on recent reports that Gustave Whitehead preceded them in flight. Ms. Leonard was asked to coordinate a Board response if necessary.

**Smithsonian Budget.** Dr. Clough provided an update in the status of the Smithsonian's fiscal year 2013 Federal budget. He noted that uncertainty still exists regarding the impact of sequestration, as the Smithsonian has not been informed on the amount that its Federal budget will be reduced. He expects that the baseline will likely be \$41 million with a \$5 million "anomaly" added back to support the scheduled opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. He also described the President's proposal to transfer \$25 million from other agencies to the Smithsonian for more coordinated STEM education outreach. Dr. Jackson described for the Committee recent reports by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology on STEM education and the recognized need for more coordination and consolidation of outreach efforts, as well as for the establishment of a central funding organization for innovation in this area.

**National Museum of the American Latino.** Dr. Clough invited Ms. Payne to update the Committee on the status of the National Museum of the American Latino. She noted that bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate to establish the museum and have been referred to the respective committees of jurisdiction. Ms. Payne noted that the committee

process could be bypassed if the bills were attached to the Smithsonian's fiscal year 2014 appropriations. Among other things, the proposed legislation calls for the Regents to conduct a feasibility study for housing the museum in the Arts and Industries Building with an adjacent annex under the National Mall. Mr. McCarter emphasized the need to reach out to interested communities across the country in planning for the museum.

#### **SECRETARY TRAVEL REVIEW UPDATE**

Mrs. Lieberman updated the committee on the Smithsonian's response to a request by Senator Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) on the Secretary's travel and leave earned and taken. She noted that on April 10, 2013, the Smithsonian delivered over 100 pages of documents to the Senator's office in response to his request. Mrs. Lieberman stressed that the documents underscored the Secretary's compliance with Smithsonian and Federal travel policies.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Committee then conducted an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

France A. Córdova  
Chair