

MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2012, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met by telephone on May 17, 2012, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Participating were Executive Committee and Board Chair France A. Córdova, Vice Chair Patricia Q. Stonesifer, and Committee member Shirley Ann Jackson.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary G. Wayne Clough, Counselor to the Chief Justice Jeffrey Minear, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia Bartlett, Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana, and General Counsel Judith Leonard.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee approved the draft minutes of the April 10, 2012, meeting with a minor correction and two clarifications.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Advisory Board Chair Retreat and National Campaign Steering Committee. Before turning to the Report of the Secretary, Dr. Córdova noted that she and Dr. Clough hosted the annual advisory board chair retreat on May 15, 2012. The retreat was followed by the inaugural meeting of the national campaign steering committee, which is cochaired by Regent David Rubenstein, Regent Emeritus Alan Spoon, and Barbara Barrett. Dr. Córdova noted that 20 advisory board chairs or their designees participated.

During the retreat, Dr. Córdova reported on continuing Regent priorities and Dr. Clough followed with an overview of the major opportunities and challenges facing his leadership team. Dr. Córdova congratulated the steering committee cochairs for conducting an inspiring and energizing launch.

Dr. Clough concurred with Dr. Córdova’s assessment and added that he was particularly pleased that the chairs of more newly formed advisory boards (Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, and Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service) were able to fully participate. Ms. Stonesifer congratulated Dr. Clough on the retreat, noting that, since the first retreat the focus of advisory board chair, concerns have evolved from central administration–unit trust issues to building a productive partnership between the Castle and individual units for the campaign.

Personnel. Dr. Clough provided updates on the leadership of three Smithsonian museums: National Museum of American History (John Gray appointment as director); the National Portrait Gallery (Martin Sullivan stepping down as director for health reasons; launching of a search committee); and the National Museum of Natural History (director search update).

Smithsonian Journeys. According to Dr. Clough, the first group of travelers completed the Smithsonian Journey's tour of Cuba and initial reports about the trip by both its organizers and participants have been "very positive." Before the tour departed Miami, an orientation session was held for the travelers with scholars discussing Cuban political history, its economy, and Cuban art and culture. He said the goal of the session was to ensure that travelers were informed about pertinent aspects of Cuban life before their arrival there. In addition, travelers also received a "frank" briefing while in Havana by the staff of the United States Interests Section.

Hirshhorn Inflatable Pavilion. Dr. Clough concluded his report with an update on the planning for the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden inflatable pavilion. Further negotiations on the product's price are nearly complete, with the anticipated costs dropping to about \$12 million. About \$8 million has been raised for the project and Dr. Clough anticipates a "go/no-go" decision being made in mid-June 2012.

APRIL 30, 2012, BOARD MEETING REVIEW

Dr. Córdova asked members for their observations on the substance and conduct of the April 20, 2012, full Board meeting. The members discussed encouraging adherence to time allocations and ensuring robust attendance by all Regents. In light of certain unanswered questions made at the meeting about the Smithsonian's gift policies, the Committee requested that staff make readily available any pertinent policy provisions at future meetings.

The Committee expressed satisfaction with the education initiatives presentation made by Assistant Secretary for Education and Access Claudine Brown and their interest in further discussions with new Smithsonian Enterprises (SE) President Chris Liedel about using SE to better disseminate Smithsonian educational products. The Committee concurred with Dr. Córdova's suggestions that members meet with Mr. Liedel at their June 13, 2012, meeting to discuss SE business activities and initiatives, as well as an appropriate and productive oversight role for Regents. [Mr. Liedel is scheduled to present to the full Board at its October 15, 2012, meeting.]

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then conducted an executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

France A. Córdova
Chair