

## MINUTES OF THE JULY 24, 2012, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met on July 24, 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, 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.

### REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

**Personnel Update.** Dr. Clough announced that Kirk Johnson accepted the Smithsonian’s offer to become director of the National Museum of Natural History. His salary, Dr. Clough added, will be consistent with Smithsonian policy. Mr. Johnson is expected to begin service on October 29, 2012. Dr. Clough outlined the process to announce the appointment over the next few days.

Dr. Clough noted two other senior appointments in Smithsonian Enterprises (a cross-platform advertising manager and a chief content officer) and the launch of a search for the next director of the Office of International Affairs.

**Strategic Plan Implementation Update.** Dr. Clough said that Ms. Bartlett is leading an assessment of progress achieved under the strategic plan. With the strategic plan scheduled to conclude in 2015 and the national campaign in 2017, Dr. Clough added that the “time is right” to consider calibrating the end dates of the plan and the campaign. In that regard, he said that a directors’ retreat is being scheduled for mid-October 2102, and that the meeting’s agenda is being developed.

Dr. Córdova observed that the retreat will be conducted shortly after the Board’s October 15, 2012, meeting, presenting an opportunity for the Secretary to solicit Regent input on the plan’s progress and future. That information can then be considered by the retreat’s participants. She, along with Ms. Stonesifer, stressed that the Regents must be well-informed of progress under the plan to help ensure effective stewardship of the Smithsonian.

**Grand Challenges Update (Americans All).** Dr. Clough updated the Committee on plans for *Americans All*, an initiative being undertaken as part of the “American Experience” Grand Challenge. He stressed that, given the interest expressed both inside and outside the Smithsonian, the initiative must be built on a “solid philosophical base.” In that regard, Dr. Clough reported on a staff “conversation” held on July 17, 2012, with former Brown University President Vartan Gregorian and journalist Judy Woodruff on the initiative’s goals. Dr. Clough

said the discussion was very productive and that staff will follow up on many of the observations and suggestions made by Dr. Gregorian.

***Congressional Relations Updates.*** Dr. Clough noted that 1,500 people, including about 30 members of Congress, participated in the annual Congressional Family Night at the National Air and Space Museum.

The National Postal Museum has organized an exhibition on congressional stamp collectors and their collections in the United States Capitol, Dr. Clough noted.

Finally, Dr. Clough alerted the Committee on recent protests regarding the alleged lack of District of Columbia residents hired for the National Museum of African American History and Culture construction project. He noted, however, that the construction of the project is being led by a joint venture (which includes minority firms) and that the Smithsonian is not responsible for the joint venture's hiring decisions. That said, Dr. Clough added that the Smithsonian supports efforts by the joint venture to increase D.C. hiring and that staff already has met with D.C. congressional delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton on ways to promote D.C. and minority hiring on the project. Dr. Clough said that Delegate Holmes recognized that the Smithsonian "was taking this issue seriously."

***Other Updates.***

*Sustainability.* Dr. Clough noted that he spoke at a conference of Federal sustainability council heads hosted by the Smithsonian.

*Fundraising.* Dr. Clough said that \$165 million has been raised to date toward the fiscal year 2012 fundraising goal of \$200 million.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Committee then conducted an executive session to discuss Board staffing issues.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

France A. Córdova  
Chair