

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 28, 2013, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met on August 28, 2013, at the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, D.C. Participating were Executive Committee and Board Chair France A. Córdoba; Vice Chair John McCarter; 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; Director of the Office of Human resources James D. Douglas; Under Secretary for Finance and Administration Al Horvath; Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana; Director of Communications and External Affairs Evelyn Lieberman; and General Counsel Judith Leonard.

Dr. Córdoba called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. She noted that a proposed discussion on the staffing analysis for the Office of the Regents would be considered at the Committee’s September 10, 2013, meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee began the meeting with an executive session. Mrs. Lieberman briefed the Committee on plans for the Secretary’s retirement announcement on September 18, 2013.

UPDATE ON CHIEF OF STAFF RECRUITMENT

Mr. Douglas provided an update on the recruitment for a new Chief of Staff to the Regents. Dr. Córdoba expressed the Committee’s intention to interview the top finalists on October 22, 2013, with a goal that the new Chief of Staff would begin on or before January 1, 2014.

FISCAL YEAR 2015 FEDERAL BUDGET REQUEST

Although Congress has not yet passed the Smithsonian’s fiscal year (FY) 2014 Federal budget, Mr. Horvath noted that the Smithsonian is nevertheless required to submit its FY 2015 budget request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on September 9, 2013.

To meet that deadline, he noted that the Finance Committee considered the proposed budget on August 26, 2013, and recommended that the Executive Committee approve the budget request on behalf of the Board. Dr. Córdoba noted that the full Board will be briefed on the budget submission as part of a September 5, 2013, conference call to consider approval of a debt issuance.

Mr. Horvath noted that OMB required agencies to submit a “guidance budget” and two other budgets at reduced levels — 5 percent and 10 percent — below OMB’s guidance target (\$892 million). He said that increases were requested in targeted priority areas supporting the

strategic plan; non-discretionary items (rent, salaries, utilities); activities that “leverage” private sector fundraising; and areas where private support is unlikely (collections care; facilities maintenance, and information technology). Mr. Horvath discussed the impact of the three OMB scenarios on current and planned facilities capital projects, noting that certain projects will be deferred at the 5 and 10 percent reduction levels.

After 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 Smithsonian Institution’s budget request for appropriated funds for fiscal year 2015 for presentation to the Office of Management and Budget. Any material changes in program plans incorporated into this budget shall be made only with the approval of the Board of Regents or its Executive Committee.

REGENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Dr. Córdoba noted that the Secretary had recommended the appointment of Michael Tennenbaum to the Regents’ Investment Committee. Mr. Tennenbaum met with Investment Committee Chair David Silfen, and Mr. Silfen supports his appointment. She noted that the Governance and Nominating Committee also recommends the appointment.

After brief discussion, the Committee approved the following motion:

VOTED that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Regent Bylaw 3.01, approves the proposed nomination of Michael E. Tennenbaum to the Regents’ Investment Committee and requests that the Chancellor make the necessary appointment.

ADVISORY BOARD COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Dr. Córdoba next presented proposed appointments to the National Air and Space Museum advisory board. She noted that the museum asked the Committee for expedited consideration on behalf of the full Board, so that the prospective new members may participate in the museum board’s October 2013 meeting. The Governance and Nominating Committee recommended the appointments.

Accordingly, the Committee approved the following motion:

VOTED that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Regent Bylaw 3.01, appoints Joseph P. Allen IV, Thomas W. Haas, and John Suttle to the Board of the National Air and Space Museum for three-year terms effective October 1, 2013.

SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Dr. Clough focused his update on a series of “significant media events” that occurred since the Committee’s July 11, 2013, meeting. He described the “enormous response” to the discovery of the Olinguito, a new mammalian species, by Smithsonian scientist Dr. Kris Helgen, as well as the birth of a panda cub at the Smithsonian National Zoo on August 23, 2013.

Mr. McCarter congratulated Dr. Clough on the publication of his e-book, *Best of Both Worlds: Museums, Libraries, and Archives in a Digital Age* (available for download at <http://www.si.edu/bestofbothworlds>).

Dr. Clough noted that Bank of America has funded an advertising campaign for the National Museum of African American History and Culture to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington (August 28, 1963).

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

France A. Córdova
Chair