

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 1, 2012, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met on November 1, 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 P. Minear, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia Bartlett, Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana, and General Counsel Judith Leonard.

CALL TO ORDER AND EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Córdova called the meeting to order. She explained that the meeting would begin with an executive session to discuss the Secretary’s fiscal year 2012 performance review process.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

After the executive session, the Committee considered the draft minutes of the September 21 and October 4, 2012, meetings. The drafts were approved pending additional clarification on the September 21 minutes regarding a Smithsonian Channel program on a Coptic Bible fragment and other minor modifications.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Hurricane Sandy. Dr. Clough began his report with a summary of the damage to Smithsonian facilities from Hurricane Sandy. He said the conditions in New York City were “horrible” and that the National Museum of the American Indian’s George Gustav Heye Center in Lower Manhattan will likely not reopen for another week. National Mall facilities fared “relatively well,” he said. Dr. Cordova commended Dr. Clough and the staff on their hurricane response efforts.

Leadership Retreat. Dr. Clough provided a summary of the October 21–22, 2012, strategic plan leadership retreat held at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SBCI) in Front Royal, Virginia. He said the retreat was “very successful” and that participants had “really connected” with one another. Dr. Clough noted that the consensus of the participants was that the strategic plan was “tracking well” and that there was deep support to extend the end date of the plan to 2017, a period of two years, to align with the national fundraising campaign. Participants concluded that more focus should be on broadening access. In particular, the group questioned whether the Smithsonian was increasing digital access quickly enough and whether new audiences were being reached. Dr. Clough said that he would present the conclusions of the participants at the next Strategic Planning and Programs Committee meeting.

Dr. Cordova noted that she had recently toured the SCBI campus and met with its director, Steven Montfort. Both she and Dr. Clough praised the work being done by SCBI in collaboration with George Mason University.

Smithsonian National Board. Dr. Clough reported on the fall Smithsonian National Board (SNB) meeting, which was held on October 25–27, 2012. He termed the meeting “very successful” and noted that many SNB alumni members also attended. A meeting theme focused on how the SNB could best support the national fundraising campaign. He noted that SNB members have been hosting donor dinner throughout the country. Ms. Stonesifer said that SNB members have recently told her that SNB meetings “have vastly improved” and that members appreciate the Secretary’s participation in their deliberations.

Patent and Trademark Office Partnership. Dr. Clough briefly described a potential partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to create “innovation and invention-based” programming in the Arts and Industries Building. He noted that USPTO leadership were very enthusiastic about completing a memorandum of agreement to structure the partnership. [*Note: The agreement was publicly announced on January 16, 2013*].

JANUARY 28, 2013, REGENTS’ MEETING AGENDA REVIEW

Dr. Cordova directed the Committee’s attention to the draft agenda for the January 28, 2013, Regents’ meeting. She asked the Committee particularly focus on the ways to effectively engage the Regents on the next steps for the strategic plan. Dr. Clough and the Committee concurred with Dr. Jackson’s suggestion that the Strategic Planning and Programs Committee provide guidance at its December 2012 meeting on a proposed presentation to the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then conducted an executive session to discuss the draft performance review of Dr. Clough and Mr. Lapiana.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

France A. Córdoba
Chair