

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2012, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met on December 7, 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

Dr. Córdova called the meeting to order. She explained that following the Report of the Secretary, the Committee would review the current draft agenda for the January 28, 2013, Board meeting and then conduct an executive session to discuss the Secretary’s fiscal year 2012 performance review.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Recent Events. The Secretary began his report with notice on a series of recent events beginning with the 25th anniversary gala celebration of the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of Art, the first Ingenuity Awards ceremony sponsored by *Smithsonian* magazine, a dinner honoring the donations of David Koch to the National Museum of Natural History, and his webcast discussion on ways that the Smithsonian can contribute to national conversation on climate change.

Hurricane Sandy. Dr. Clough updated the Committee on the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy to Smithsonian facilities in New York City and the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

National Museum of African American History and Culture. At the Committee’s request, Dr. Clough briefed the Committee on the status of fundraising for construction of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. He said the museum’s council was “very well engaged” and outreach is being conducted with major corporations and foundations. He outlined some major proposals being considered by potential donors. A “lot of work still needs to be done,” he said, but added that momentum is growing. The “fiscal cliff” budget debate is not appearing to have a significant impact on fundraising yet, he added.

Federal Budget. Dr. Clough noted that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) advised the Smithsonian that it intended to continue to advance the “passback” process and that the Federal government continues to operate under a continuing resolution (CR) until March 31, 2013. Funding under the CR is at fiscal year 2012 levels. Dr. Clough said that, absent Congressional action, “sequestration” would go into effect on January 2, 2013, and that the Smithsonian will implement any resulting cuts pursuant to OMB’s instructions. In anticipation

for possible sequestration cuts up to \$66 million, the Smithsonian has implemented cost-savings actions over the past fiscal year. Ms. Leonard explained that the sequestration cuts would take precedence over the amount of appropriations made under the CR.

Digital Initiatives. The Secretary announced the creation of two digital initiatives advisory group; the first will consist of outside digital media experts; the second will consist of unit heads with strong digital components. The work of these groups will be to help focus Smithsonian digital efforts to advance the strategic plan (i.e., broadening access, reaching new audiences, and promoting diversity). Dr. Clough also said that he would ask the Regents to extend the strategic plan's end-date two years to 2017.

Patent and Trademark Office Partnership. Dr. Clough briefly updated the Committee on the status of negotiations with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to create a partnership with the Smithsonian for "innovation and invention-based" programming in the Arts and Industries Building. He expects that the agreement will be completed before the January 28, 2013, Regents meeting. [Note: The agreement was publicly announced on January 16, 2013].

Exhibition Review. Dr. Clough briefly discussed the Sackler Gallery invitation to Chinese artist Cai Guo-Qiang to explode a 40-foot pine tree in honor of the Sackler Gallery's 25th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of the State Department's Art in Embassies program. He noted that the funding for the event was provided by the State Department. Dr. Jackson asked that, at the next Strategic Planning and Programs Committee meeting, staff identify the factors used to trigger central administration and Regent review of sensitive and potentially controversial exhibitions.

JANUARY 28, 2013, REGENTS' MEETING AGENDA

Dr. Córdova directed the Committee's attention to the revised draft agenda for the January 28, 2013, Regents' meeting. She noted that two notable changes were made since the Committee's last review of the draft: (1) a presentation by new National Museum of American History Director John Gray was moved to the April 2013 Regents' meeting and (2) the regular presentation made by the Under Secretaries would focus on the quality of Smithsonian research and the methods used to measure that quality.

She added that the scope of the strategic plan and digital outreach reports—which is currently the major programmatic topic of the morning session—will be guided by the deliberations at the upcoming Strategic Planning and Programs Committee meeting. Ms. Stonesifer suggested that the proposed national campaign report also show how the campaign is moving forward at the unit level. She said that the Regents would benefit from a few snapshots on individual unit progress.

Dr. Córdova noted that the Governance and Nominating Committee would consider at its next meeting the advisability of establishing an annual Regents-only dinner. The dinner would be

designed to promote collegiality among the Regents and allow the Board to discuss confidential matters more freely.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then conducted an executive session to discuss the annual Secretary performance review process.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

France A. Córdova
Chair