

## **MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2014, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Strategic Planning and Programs Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution held a meeting in the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, D.C., on September 12, 2014. Participating were Committee Chair Shirley Ann Jackson\* and Committee members Representative Tom Cole\*, Steve Case\*, Judy S. Huret\*, Risa Lavizzo-Mourey\*, Paul Neely\*, and Regent Emeritus Alan Spoon\*. Committee member Senator Jack Reed was unable to participate.

Staff in attendance included Secretary G. Wayne Clough; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia L. Bartlett; Assistant Secretary for Education and Access Claudine K. Brown; Director of Advancement and Philanthropic Planning Virginia Clark; Senior Writer-Editor for the Office of the Regents Barbara Feininger (recorder); Inspector General Cathy Helm; Under Secretary for Finance and Administration and Chief Information Officer Al Horvath; Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Richard Kurin; Assistant to Senator Reed Moira Lenehan-Razzuri\*; Director of Communications and External Affairs Evelyn Lieberman; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Rachel Parker; Director of Government Affairs Nell Payne; Freer and Sackler Galleries Director Julian Raby; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter N. Wilkinson.

### **CALL TO ORDER AND EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Dr. Jackson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and reviewed the meeting agenda. The Committee then met in executive session to discuss a possible Smithsonian presence in London, after which the open session was resumed.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 2014, COMMITTEE MEETING**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the May 7, 2014, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE CHARTER AND BOARD BYLAWS**

At its June 2014 meeting, the Board of Regents expressed support for changing the name of this Committee to the Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee and amending the Committee’s charter to better reflect its commitment to the oversight of the Smithsonian’s innovation and technology initiatives. The proposed charter amendments include, among other things, a revised statement of purpose to include oversight of these initiatives, as well as of strategic investments, partnerships and collaborations, and Smithsonian Enterprises. In addition, proposed amendments to term limits were presented. Dr. Jackson reported that the Governance and Nominating Committee would review the issue of term limits the following week, at which time Ms. Leonard and Ms. Wilkinson will present their findings on best practices on this issue. Changes to the Committee charter will require amendments to the Board Bylaws.

*\* participated by telephone*

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following motion then was approved:

**VOTED** that the Strategic Planning and Programs Committee recommends that the Governance and Nominating Committee recommend to the Board of Regents the renaming of the Strategic Planning and Programs Committee to the Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee, as well as the approval of the proposed amendments to the Committee Charter and the Board Bylaws.

Dr. Jackson proposed consideration of the establishment of a temporary joint subcommittee of this Committee and the Finance Committee to oversee Smithsonian Enterprises during the transition period between the December 2014 retirement of Secretary G. Wayne Clough and the July 2015 installation of Secretary-elect David Skorton. The Committee endorsed Dr. Jackson's proposal, and she noted that she would confer with Finance Committee Chair David Rubenstein about the formation of a temporary joint subcommittee.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

Secretary Clough reported overall progress on the strategic plan's Grand Challenges and interdisciplinary initiatives, adding that a full update would be presented to the Board of Regents at its October 20, 2014, meeting. The following are some of the recent strategic plan achievements he noted:

- The "Living in the Anthropocene" symposium series on climate change is attracting numerous external participants and attendees;
- The Smithsonian's biological conservation initiative is being branded;
- The "Understanding the American Experience" Consortium contributed to the launch of the "What It Means to Be American" initiative and a collaborative effort with the National Museum of American History will produce 27 live events in nine cities;
- A new agreement with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will advance innovation initiatives;
- The third mirror of the Giant Magellan Telescope was cast;
- The Grand Challenge Consortia has reorganized its administration and awarded 132 internal seed grants to date, 35 of which have resulted in 87 external awards totaling \$35 million, and is focusing on 15 signature projects;
- The Youth Access Grants program has awarded over \$5 million in a competitive process and matching external funds have been secured;
- There are now 196 Smithsonian Affiliate museums;
- Smithsonian-based Great Courses and other online offerings are increasing access;
- The digitization initiative has conducted five rapid-capture digitization projects and generated media coverage for its transcription center;
- Construction of the National Museum of African American History and Culture is progressing, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center's Mathias Laboratory will be dedicated in September 2014 and is on track to be certified LEED-platinum, and Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum is scheduled to reopen in December 2014;
- The proposed South Campus Master Plan is nearly complete; and
- The kick-off of the Smithsonian Campaign will occur in October 2014.

## **EXHIBITION CALENDAR**

The purpose of the exhibition calendar review is to help identify in advance any potentially sensitive and/or controversial exhibitions and to allow for thoughtful planning. Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Richard Kurin commented on an exhibition of the work of Iranian-American artist Shirin Neshat that is scheduled to open in May 2015 at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Judy Huret suggested that future exhibition calendars note which exhibitions will have a presence beyond their installation at the Smithsonian (such as appearances in other venues or webinars).

## **REPORT OF THE UNDER SECRETARIES**

Interim Under Secretary for Science John Kress provided a written report that was included in the advance meeting materials. Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Richard Kurin reported that Melissa Chiu will begin her tenure as director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in late September 2014. He commented on increases in the Smithsonian Channel's value, number of subscribers, and the Institution's vetoes of proposed programs because of potential reputational risk. Discussions about the possible merger of the Smithsonian American Art Museum with the National Portrait Gallery are under way.

Assistant Secretary for Education and Access Claudine Brown reported that the Smithsonian education website is being redeveloped as the Smithsonian Learning Lab. The Smithsonian Science Education Center has raised new funds to produce digital assets and as well as received permission to use i3 funds from the U.S. Department of Education to create interactive games, simulations, and videos that will extend the life of the i3 initiative. She also commented on the development of curriculum based on the Smithsonian's 3D digitization initiative.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee agreed to postpone the review of two scheduled agenda items — an update on the Smithsonian's partnership with the USPTO and a report on the Smithsonian Collections Space Framework Plan — until its next meeting.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Ann Jackson, Chair