

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2013, AFTERNOON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met on January 10, 2013, beginning at 2:00 p.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, Under Secretary for Finance and Administration Al Horvath, Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana, General Counsel Judith Leonard, and Special Assistant to the Secretary Alison McNally.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Córdova called the meeting to order and asked that Mr. Minear convey the Committee’s appreciation to the Chancellor for hosting the morning meeting and subsequent working lunch.

SMITHSONIAN-UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE PARTNERSHIP

Ms. McNally provided the Committee with an update on the negotiations between the Smithsonian and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) on a partnership to create programming in the Arts and Industries Building (AIB). Ms. McNally said that she expected USPTO leadership to approve the proposed memorandum of understanding within the next few days. [NOTE: The agreement was publically announced on January 16, 2013.] She explained that the agreement is expected to be for five years, from 2013 to 2017, with a potential to extend it to 2021.

Under the proposed agreement, the Smithsonian will collaborate with the USPTO to coproduce an Innovation Expo on the USPTO campus in Alexandria, Virginia, on June 20–22, 2013. The joint effort will support the migration of Innovation Expo content to a dedicated space in the AIB to be named the “Innovation Pavilion,” she explained. The AIB is scheduled to reopen in 2014. Ms. McNally said that the USPTO and the Smithsonian would work together to develop additional future programming in the Innovation Pavilion. The Smithsonian expects future plans will include student programming designed to inspire the next generation of American innovators; seminars; conferences; workshops for inventors; and innovator recognition ceremonies.

Ms. Stonesifer congratulated Dr. Clough and Ms. McNally on the project and suggested that robust outreach be conducted to solicit input and support for the project from Smithsonian staff who already may have responsibilities or interest in invention and innovation.

FISCAL YEAR 2012 REGENTS' PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Following the morning discussion on the fiscal year 2012 Regents' performance assessment, Dr. Córdova solicited additional observations from members on the results. She noted that the topic would be a key discussion item at the January 28, 2013, Regents' meeting.

Dr. Jackson said that the results were generally positive. She agreed with Dr. Córdova that Regents appear to be seeking more communications between their quarterly meetings. Ms. Stonesifer said that the Regents may not only be seeking more communications from the chair between meetings, but also from the Secretary. A regular update "from the desk of the Secretary" may be welcomed, she said. Dr. Clough said that he and his team will explore developing a regular Board communication.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Clough discussed the status of key director searches.

The Committee discussed with the Secretary the status of fundraising for the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The Committee then discussed the annual performance reviews of those Smithsonian staff reporting directly to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

France A. Córdova
Chair