

MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2013, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met on July 11, 2013. 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; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia Bartlett; Associate General Counsel Lauryn Guttenplan; Under Secretary for Finance and Administration Al Horvath; Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Richard Kurin; Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana; Director of Communications and External Affairs Evelyn Lieberman; and Director of Government Relations Nell Payne.

Dr. Córdoba called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee approved the draft minutes of the April 11, May 7, and June 11, 2013, meetings with minor editorial changes.

NEW ITEMS OF INTEREST

Smithsonian Modernization Act of 2013. Before turning to Secretary Clough’s monthly report, Dr. Córdoba asked Ms. Payne to brief the Committee on legislation recently introduced in the House of Representatives by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC At-Large). Ms. Payne explained that the bills called for, among other things, a Presidentially-appointed Board of Regents and a prohibition against charging admission fees to any exhibition. These bills have been offered annually by Delegate Norton since 2008. Ms. Payne said her office will continue to monitor the progress of the proposed legislation.

Alexander Graham Bell Papers. Ms. Guttenplan briefed the committee on a developing legal matter concerning the ownership of certain papers of Alexander Graham Bell that involves the National Air and Space Museum, National Geographic Society, the heirs of Dr. Bell, an auction house, and the putative owners. The Committee urged the General Counsel’s office to closely follow any proceedings and to keep the Committee informed.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Directors Budget Retreat. The Secretary next previewed the retreat he will host for unit directors on options to avoid costs in light of anticipated Federal budget constraints. Part of the retreat will focus on looking beyond the current budget climate and how the Smithsonian can ensure that momentum on the strategic plan continues to build.

Campus Master Plan. Secretary Clough noted that the architectural firm hired to assist in the development of a south campus master plan was interviewing key staff and Regents and has identified a “number of very exciting ideas.” He noted that Regent Robert Kogod, along with non-Regent Facilities Committee members Paul Neely and George Hartman, have been closely

involved in the process on behalf of the Board.

Hirshhorn Board of Trustees Chair. Secretary Clough updated the Committee on the resignation of Constance Caplan, the chair of the Hirshhorn Board of Trustees. Ms. Caplan announced her resignation on July 9, 2013. In her statement, Ms. Caplan expressed her disappointment that the Hirshhorn “Bubble” project was cancelled and questioned the Hirshhorn board’s role in the decision. Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Richard Kurin said he is reaching out to members of the board in light of the recruitment to replace outgoing Hirshhorn Director Richard Koshalek and to rebuild the Hirshhorn board.

OCTOBER 21, 2013, REGENTS' MEETING AGENDA REVIEW

The Committee next reviewed the initial draft agenda for the October 21, 2014, Regents’ meeting. Dr. Córdova noted that the challenge for this meeting will be to accommodate reports from all nine Regents committees, including the Governance and Nominating Committee, which will present the two new Regent nominees and conduct the Board leadership elections for 2014; a presentation on the strategic plan initiative “Valuing World Cultures”; and a public meeting.

The Committee supported the current draft and Dr. Córdova noted that the Committee will consider the agenda again at its September 10, 2013, meeting.

OFFICE OF THE REGENTS SEARCH

Mr. Horvath outlined the recruitment process for a new Chief of Staff to the Regents. On June 28, 2013, Mr. Lapiana, the incumbent chief of staff, accepted the position of Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Administration. Mr. Horvath said that the search will be nation-wide and that he anticipated that the Committee will be able to consider candidate resumes by September 2013. Director of the Office of Human Resources James D. Douglas will lead the search process for the Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee conducted an executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

France A. Córdova
Chair