

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2013, AFTERNOON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met on October 2, 2013, at the Capital Gallery in Washington, D.C. Participating were Executive Committee and Board Chair France A. Córdova; Vice Chair John McCarter; and Committee member Shirley Ann Jackson.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary G. Wayne Clough; Counselor to the Chief Justice Jeffrey Minear; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia Bartlett; Director of the Office of Human Resources James D. Douglas; Under Secretary for Finance and Administration Al Horvath; Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana; General Counsel Judith Leonard; and Director of Government Relations Nell Payne.

Dr. Córdova called the meeting to order at approximately 12:45 a.m.

UPDATE ON CHIEF OF STAFF RECRUITMENT

Mr. Douglas provided an update on the recruitment for a new Chief of Staff to the Regents. He noted that there were over 1,000 applicants for the position and that he, Ms. Bartlett, and Mr. Horvath have conducted initial interviews and background checks for six candidates selected by the Committee. Members discussed some of the attributes and skills that they would look for in candidates. Interviews with the finalists are expected to be conducted in late October 2013.

FEDERAL BUDGET OUTLOOK

Mr. Horvath noted that the Smithsonian was “in day two of the shutdown.” He said the actual shutdown process had gone “amazingly well.” He said management did not foresee any significant immediate impact on revenues from the shutdown. He noted that the Smithsonian will lose revenue from its retail operations during the shutdown and the museums, in particular, will have to carry the burden of cancelled special events in their facilities. Ms. Bartlett added that the museums primarily use special events revenue to fund programming and educational initiatives. Mr. Horvath said that he is also “keeping a close eye” on sponsored projects that are funded by contracts and grants that use Federal appropriations.

Ms. Payne provided the Committee with an overview of negotiations in Congress regarding the Federal budget, noting that both sides are firmly entrenched and that the shutdown could last until early November 2013.

SECRETARY’S UPDATE

As a follow-up to his morning report, Dr. Clough provided the Committee with mock-ups of the proposed corona, or cornice element, on the National Museum of African American History and

Culture. He explained that the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts has objected to the intended use of a finish on the corona panels and has urged the Smithsonian to consider an alternative product.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee conducted an executive session to discuss the fiscal year 2013 performance evaluation process for the Secretary.

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m., with the Chancellor, Committee members, and the Secretary convening for an informal lunch discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

France A. Córdova
Chair