

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2013, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met on November 15, 2013. 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 P. Minear; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia Bartlett; Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana; General Counsel Judith Leonard; and Director of Communications and External Affairs Evelyn S. Lieberman.

CALL TO ORDER and REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Dr. Córdova called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Personnel Updates. Before inviting Dr. Clough to update his comprehensive quarterly summary presented at the October 26, 2013, Regents meeting, Dr. Córdova presented a brief report of the chair. She confirmed that Porter N. Wilkinson had been selected the new Chief of Staff for the Regents and will start in that role on December 2, 2013. Dr. Córdova also noted that the vacancy announcement for the Inspector General position was posted on November 12, 2013, and will close on December 4, 2013.

Major Events. Dr. Córdova highlighted upcoming major Smithsonian events of particular interest to the Committee, including the second annual *Smithsonian Magazine* American Ingenuity Awards (November 19), the celebration at the National Museum of American History of the 50th Anniversary of the National Medal of Freedom (November 20), and the 10th anniversary of the National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center (November 21).

Regent Outreach. Dr. Córdova and Dr. Clough thanked Mr. McCarter for organizing a Smithsonian visit for potential supporters from the Chicago area on November 20.

SECRETARY’S UPDATES

Potential New Initiatives. Dr. Clough began his update with a report on discussions between the Smithsonian and the Bishop Museum in Hawaii on developing a stronger Smithsonian presence in that state. In addition, Dr. Clough said that preliminary discussions are being conducted on the establishment of an award that would honor achievements in American music. Both discussions are in relatively early phases and Dr. Clough said he would continue to keep the Committee apprised of relevant developments.

Recent Smithsonian Events. The Secretary noted that the “Smithsonian X 3-D” conference,

held on November 13–14, 2013, was extremely successful (a booklet distributed at the conference was forwarded to all Regents). Dr. Clough also described a well-attended conference hosted by the Smithsonian Latino Center for leaders of Latino museums across the United States.

Finally, Dr. Clough noted that executives from Smithsonian Enterprises will provide testimony at a hearing by the House Subcommittee on Transportation on food service provided by Amtrak. The hearing is scheduled for November 21, 2013.

ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUM

Dr. Córdova noted that, due to the recent Federal Government shutdown, the Regents' annual public forum was cancelled in light of concerns about a lack of venue if the Smithsonian facilities were closed on that date and the need for advanced notification to the public. The forum's agenda was devoted to soliciting public input on the new Secretary search. As a result of the cancellation, Mr. McCarter, the ad hoc search committee chair, will instead lead a staff conversation on the search at the Hirshhorn's Ring Auditorium on November 22. That conversation, along with a web-based public survey, will substitute for the public meeting for the search committee's purposes.

Dr. Córdova reminded the Committee that, as part of the Regents' 2007 governance reforms, the Board committed itself to providing an opportunity annually for direct public input to the Board. With the cancellation of the 2013 public forum, Mrs. Lieberman and her staff were asked to identify alternatives, including holding the forum after the January 27, 2014, Regents' meeting.

Mrs. Lieberman noted that the current continuing budget resolution will expire on January 15 and, absent an extension, the Federal government may again be shut down, causing the cancellation again of the public forum. She advised, and the Committee concurred, in exploring options other than a January forum that would still achieve the Regents' goal to offer an effective vehicle for direct public input. The Regents intend to continue holding annual public forums.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then conducted an executive session to entertain a report from the General Counsel and an update from Mr. McCarter on the Secretary search process.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

France A. Córdova
Chair

