

## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2013, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met on December 10, 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; Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Administration John K. Lapiana; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Director of Communications and External Affairs Evelyn S. Lieberman; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter N. Wilkinson.

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the November 15, 2013, Board meeting were presented for approval. Dr. Córdova requested that the minutes be revised to reflect the reasons for cancelling the public forum in October 2013 and to state that the Regents intend to hold public forums in the future. The minutes were approved subject to these revisions.

### ARTIFACT LOAN

The Committee considered a proposed loan of the *Bay Psalm Book* owned by Regent David Rubenstein to the National Museum of American History and Smithsonian Institution Libraries. Mr. Rubenstein previously loaned his copy of the Emancipation Proclamation to the National Museum of American History and his copy of the Thirteenth Amendment to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Secretary Clough explained that he contacted Mr. Rubenstein to note that the Smithsonian would like to be the first venue to exhibit the book. Ms. Leonard said that she reviewed the facts surrounding the proposed loan and prior loan agreements between the Smithsonian and Mr. Rubenstein, and recommended approval of the loan of the *Bay Psalm Book* pursuant to the Board of Regents Ethic Guidelines. Expressing excitement about the loan, the Committee approved the following motion:

**VOTED** that, pursuant to the Board of Regents Ethic Guidelines, the Executive Committee approves the proposed loan by Regent David Rubenstein of *The Bay Psalm Book* to the National Museum of American History and Smithsonian Institution Libraries.

## **SECRETARY'S UPDATES**

Dr. Clough began his update by commenting on a series of successful events at the Smithsonian, including the Ingenuity Awards, the Medal of Freedom Dinner, the 10th Anniversary of the Udvar-Hazy Center, and the Chicago Donor Vision visit.

Dr. Clough briefed the Committee on several additional proposals by Mr. Rubenstein.

Dr. Clough updated the Committee on the status of the master plan for the south campus and commended the steering committee and the ad hoc committee for their efforts thus far. He anticipates that an update on the plan will be presented to the full Board in the near future.

Dr. Clough also updated the Committee on the Federal budget negotiations and the potential ramifications for the Smithsonian Institution. He noted that the Smithsonian had received a good response to the early retirement program, which will result in significant savings.

Mrs. Lieberman then updated the Committee on recent events at the National Zoological Park and media coverage of a report by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) on the Cheetah Conservation Station.

Dr. Clough concluded his report with an update on various construction projects.

## **AGENDA REVIEW**

Dr. Córdova briefly outlined the preliminary agenda for the January 27, 2014, Regents' meeting. During the meeting, Mr. McCarter will brief the Board on the status of the search for a new Secretary. Additionally, the Regents will be making compensation decisions for the Secretary and other personnel.

Dr. Córdova also explained that, due to the recent Federal Government shutdown, the Regents' annual public forum, originally scheduled for October 21, 2013, was cancelled in light of concerns about a lack of venue and the need for advanced notification to the public. Mrs. Lieberman recommended not to schedule another public meeting for January 2014, given the continuing uncertainty regarding the budget. The Committee concurred with that recommendation.

Dr. Córdova also explained that John McCarter will assume the position of Chair of the Board of Regents at the end of the January 27, 2014, Regents' meeting.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Committee then conducted an executive session to receive an update from Mr. McCarter on the Secretary search process and to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

France A. Córdova  
Chair