

## **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2015, STRATEGY, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) held a meeting in the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, D.C., on January 14, 2015. Participating were Committee Chair Shirley Ann Jackson\* and Committee members, Steve Case\*, Judy S. Huret\*, John W. McCarter, Jr., and Paul Neely\*. Committee members Representative Tom Cole, Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, and Regent Emeritus Alan Spoon were unable to participate.

Staff in attendance included Acting Secretary Albert Horvath; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia Bartlett; Associate General Counsel Craig Blackwell; Assistant Secretary for Education and Access Claudine K. Brown; Director of the Office of International Relations Molly Fannon; Senior Writer-Editor for the Office of the Regents Barbara Feininger (recorder); Interim Under Secretary for Science John Kress; Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Richard Kurin; Acting Under Secretary for Finance and Administration John Lapiana\*; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Director of Communications and External Affairs Evelyn Lieberman; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Rachel Parker; Director of Government Relations Nell Payne; and Director of the National Collections Program William G. Tompkins.

### **CALL TO ORDER AND EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Dr. Jackson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and reviewed the meeting agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2014, COMMITTEE MEETING**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the September 12, 2014, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE CHARTER AND BOARD BYLAWS**

During its October 2014 meeting, the Board voted to recommend that each Regent committee revise its charter before January 2015 to reflect changes to committee term limits. Recommended changes include extending term limits for Regent committee members to twelve years, maintaining term limits for non-Regent committee members at six years, and maintaining term limits for all other non-Regent and Regent emeritus committee members at three years.

\* *participated by telephone*

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following motion then was approved:

**VOTED** that the Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee recommends that the Governance and Nominating Committee recommend to the Board of Regents the approval of the proposed amendments to the Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee Charter.

#### **COMMITTEE PRIORITIES – INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

Dr. Jackson led the members of the Committee in a discussion on how best to address the areas of innovation and technology in future Committee meetings. Members of the Committee emphasized the importance of oversight to avoid duplication of efforts, encourage best practices, and explore partnerships. Several members highlighted the importance of understanding the Smithsonian’s existing technology platforms and best practices and to assess those against the work of other organizations. The Committee agreed that future meetings should regularly incorporate sessions with outside experts and visionaries as well as sessions, which focus on internal Smithsonian projects, platforms, and ideas.

#### **SMITHSONIAN GLOBAL STRATEGY**

Acting Secretary Albert Horvath reported to the Committee on the strategic framework for the Smithsonian’s global initiatives. Mr. Horvath highlighted recent steps to reorganize the Smithsonian’s capabilities in order to better meet the responsibilities of participating in a variety of global collaborations and projects.

Mr. Horvath reported that the Smithsonian currently has ongoing activities in over 140 countries, which highlights the scope and depth of the Smithsonian. The global activities are primarily in the area of scientific research; however, significant collaborations in the area of cultural preservation and education programming have strengthened the Smithsonian’s recognition as a world-renowned global institution.

Mr. Horvath then introduced the Smithsonian’s new Director of the Office of International Relations, Molly Fannon. Ms. Fannon explained that the Office of International Relations’ goal is to analyze international opportunities earlier in the process for a strong mission fit and to help administer new international efforts in an efficient manner.

## REPORT OF THE UNDER SECRETARIES

Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Richard Kurin presented an update on the exhibition design and fabrication for the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Dr. Kurin also updated the Committee on the cultural recovery work of the Smithsonian, which was highlighted at a meeting at the State Department.

Interim Under Secretary for Science W. John Kress emphasized the Smithsonian's work in the area of genomics. He highlighted that the December 12, 2014, issue of *Science* was devoted to the topic of bird genomics and of the eight major articles, scientists at the Smithsonian were co-authors on three. Dr. Kress also contributed an editorial to the issue.

Assistant Secretary for Education and Access Claudine K. Brown provided an update on the Youth Access Grant initiative. Through the program, the Smithsonian has awarded approximately \$1.5 million in the past year, bringing the three-year-total to \$13 million. She also discussed emerging strategies in education including the train-the-trainer model employed at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum; broadcast model employed with the "Science How" program; and franchised learning spaces such as the "Spark Lab".

## EXHIBITION CALENDAR

The purpose of the exhibition calendar review is to help identify in advance any potentially sensitive and/or controversial exhibitions and to allow for thoughtful planning. Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Richard Kurin drew the Committee's attention to an exhibition of the work of Iranian-American artist Shirin Neshat, which is opening in May 2015 at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Given recent global events, Mr. Kurin will be meeting with his staff to prepare for the opening.

## ACQUISITION POLICY

Associate General Counsel Craig Blackwell discussed a proposal to update the 1973 *Smithsonian Institution Policy on Museum Acquisitions* and incorporate it into the Smithsonian's Collections Management Policy (SD 600). Mr. Blackwell explained that the purpose of the proposal is to bring the Smithsonian's policy in line with professional standards. Mr. Blackwell informed the Committee that the changes to the policy have been presented to the Executive Committee for information and were approved by the Governance and Nominating Committee for presentation to the full Board for approval.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Following Mr. Blackwell's presentation, the Committee conducted an executive session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Ann Jackson, Chair