

MINUTES OF THE MAY 19, 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 May 19, 2015. Participating were Committee members Representative Tom Cole*, Steve Case*, Judy Huret*, Michael Lynton*, Risa Lavizzo-Mourey*, Paul Neely*, Alan Spoon*, and Board Chair John W. McCarter, Jr.* Committee Chair Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson was unable to participate.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Acting Secretary Albert Horvath; Senior Advisor for Higher Education Initiatives Patricia L. Bartlett; Acting Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Office of the Regents Writer-Editor Julie Bindelglass (recorder); Counsel to the Inspector General Epin Christensen; Interim Under Secretary for Science John Kress; Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Richard Kurin; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Senior Advisor to the Secretary Evelyn Lieberman; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Rachel Parker; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Assistant Director for Open Innovation Jenn Gustetic attended the meeting as a guest presenter.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee member Michael Lynton called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2015, COMMITTEE MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the January 14, 2015, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

INSIDE/OUT REVIEW OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Assistant Director for Open Innovation Jenn Gustetic reviewed science and technology initiatives implemented throughout the federal government for the Committee’s consideration. Among the initiatives Ms. Gustetic discussed were the use of incentive prizes and challenges to stimulate innovation. Acting Secretary Albert Horvath agreed to report on the next steps for implementing similar initiatives at the Smithsonian at the next Committee meeting.

* participated by telephone

ACTING SECRETARY UPDATE ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Horvath reported on the Strategic Plan (“Plan”). He explained that the Plan was initiated in 2010, with the expectation that it would be implemented through fiscal year 2015. At the request of Smithsonian management, the Board of Regents extended the Plan until 2017, to coincide with the end of the Smithsonian Campaign and leadership transition. Mr. Horvath updated the Committee on key initiatives that further the Plan’s goals of understanding the American experience; valuing world cultures; unlocking the mysteries of the universe; understanding and sustaining a biodiverse planet; revitalizing education; and broadening access. Mr. Horvath discussed some of the key challenges currently facing the Smithsonian, including the National Air and Space Museum renovations; the searches for an Under Secretary for Science and Directors of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and Smithsonian Science Education Center; rapidly changing technology; and fundraising for the Giant Magellan Telescope.

REPORT FROM THE UNDER SECRETARIES

Interim Under Secretary for Science John Kress updated the Committee on science initiatives at the Smithsonian. Dr. Kress highlighted a \$600,000 grant received from the National Science Foundation for global change wetlands research. Dr. Kress also informed the Committee about the artificial panda insemination efforts at the National Zoological Park and the new amphibian rescue center at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama.

Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Richard Kurin updated the Committee on history, art, and culture initiatives at the Smithsonian. In the area of cultural recovery, he reported that a Smithsonian employee is traveling to Nepal with a team from UNESCO. Dr. Kurin also discussed the Smithsonian’s work with the “Schwabing Art Trove” Task Force, which is an international research group, that works with the German government to investigate the origins of approximately 1,000 pieces of art that were seized from a wealthy family in Munich in 2012. Lastly, Dr. Kurin informed the Committee about a recent project proposal, initiated by the Smithsonian, to collaborate with the Bishop Museum in Hawaii and join forces on research, exhibitions, and educational programs related to Asia and the Pacific.

EXHIBITION CALENDAR

Dr. Kurin presented the exhibition calendar for the Committee to review. He explained that the purpose of the exhibition calendar review is to help identify in advance any potentially sensitive and/or controversial exhibitions and allow for thoughtful planning. Dr. Kurin drew the Committee’s attention to the upcoming Smithsonian Folklife Festival as well as multiple exhibits about World War I.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then conducted an executive session to discuss Committee membership and the Smithsonian presence in London.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Ann Jackson, Chair