

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 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 September 8, 2015. Participating were Committee Chair Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson and Committee members Steve Case*, Judy Huret*, Michael Lynton*, Alan Spoon*, and Board and Executive Committee Chair John W. McCarter, Jr.*

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary David Skorton; Acting Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Assistant Secretary for Education and Access Claudine Brown; Office of the Regents Senior Researcher & Writer Jennifer Ehlinger (recorder); Under Secretary for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer Albert Horvath; Inspector General Cathy Helm; Legislative Director to Senator John Boozman Toni-Marie Higgins; Interim Under Secretary for Science John Kress; Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Richard Kurin; Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Administration John Lapiana; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Rachel Parker; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and reviewed the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 19, 2015, COMMITTEE MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the May 19, 2015, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

SMITHSONIAN INNOVATION TOOLKIT

Under Secretary for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer Albert Horvath reported on the various actions the Institution has taken, which mirror some of the innovation practices described in the Committee's previous meeting by guest speaker from the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy Jenn Gustetic. Mr. Horvath discussed collaborations such as crowd sourcing, citizen science, and new technologies and ways of sharing; evidence-based innovation in terms of digitization; and progress toward creating an innovation culture. The Committee used the summary report as a platform for discussion with the Secretary and management about ways to build on those existing activities to encourage a greater culture of innovation at the Smithsonian.

** participated by telephone*

REPORT FROM THE UNDER SECRETARIES

Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Richard Kurin updated the Committee on history, art, and culture initiatives at the Smithsonian. The Committee discussed the current process the Smithsonian conducts in reviewing exhibit content before an exhibition opens.

Assistant Secretary for Education and Access Claudine Brown updated the Committee on ways the Smithsonian is working to revitalize education, create learning communities, and broaden opportunities for learning and access. She updated the Committee on the Smithsonian Science Education Center (“SEEC”) and announced the selection of Dr. Carol O’ Donnell as SEEC’s new director.

Interim Under Secretary for Science John Kress updated the Committee on science initiatives at the Smithsonian. He provided updates on the Giant Magellan Telescope construction, the Smithsonian’s role in Global DNA barcoding, and the Global Genome Initiative Gardens Project.

EXHIBITION CALENDAR

Dr. Kurin presented the exhibition calendar for the Committee to review. He reminded the Committee that the purpose of the exhibition calendar review is to help identify in advance, any potentially sensitive or controversial exhibitions and allow for thoughtful planning.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then conducted an executive session to discuss Committee membership, updates on the Smithsonian’s opportunity in London, and the current renovations and future use of the Arts and Industries Building.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, Chair