

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2016, 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 teleconference meeting on March 21, 2016. Participating were Committee Chair Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson and Committee members Senator John Boozman, Steve Case, Michael Lynton, Bob MacDonald, 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; Office of the Regents Senior Researcher & Writer Jennifer Ehlinger (recorder); Inspector General Cathy Helm; Liaison to Senator Boozman Toni-Marie Higgins; Under Secretary for Finance & Administration/Chief Financial Officer Albert Horvath; Acting Provost/Under Secretary Museums & Research Richard Kurin; Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Administration John Lapiana; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Office of the Provost Executive Officer Amy Marino; 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 2:03 p.m. She welcomed new Committee Member and Smithsonian National Board Chair Bob MacDonald and then reviewed the meeting agenda.

The Committee took a few moments to remember the Smithsonian’s Assistant Secretary for Education & Access Claudine K. Brown, who recently passed away. The Committee was informed about the Smithsonian’s plan to honor Claudine at a *Celebration of Life* ceremony to be held in the Arts & Industries Building on Monday, April 4, 2016.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2015, COMMITTEE MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the December 16, 2015, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

SECRETARY’S SCHOLARS INITIATIVES

Acting Provost/Under Secretary for Museums & Research Dr. Richard Kurin provided an introduction and overview of the Smithsonian Secretary’s Scholars Initiative (“Initiative”). The Initiative, led by Secretary Skorton, will aim to enhance the Smithsonian’s creative and intellectual workforce by funding 40 new positions in the curatorial, conservation, research, and science fields. The positions would have initial term-limits of five years, with the goal of enabling longer terms through continuing financial support. The program seeks to address two critical issues currently facing the Smithsonian: the decrease in scholarly positions over time due to budget constraints; and the impending retirement of many of the Smithsonian’s current scholars. 106 position proposals have already been submitted from different units across the

Smithsonian. The proposals will be reviewed and prioritized based on key qualifications including distribution within the Smithsonian, opportunity to recruit diverse candidates, and practical considerations such as space and spending constraints.

REPORT FROM THE UNDER SECRETARIES

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Education and Access highlighted the 2015 Smithsonian Education Awards and the launch of *Word Expeditions*, a program supported by a \$1 million grant from the PNC Foundation. Information was provided on the office's collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian Latino Center to produce the *Sí se puede Dolores Huerta Family Day*, highlighting the exhibition, *One Life: Dolores Huert*.

The Office of the Provost highlighted the Smithsonian's involvement with the upcoming American Alliance of Museum's meeting and an event on May 9, 2016, entitled *Dialogue on Exhibitions*, which will focus on controversy in museum exhibitions. Information was also provided on a new partnership with Yale University that will focus on common interests in conservation and preservation of cultural heritage; digital humanities; environment and climate change; race and human diversity; and material culture and object-based teaching and research.

EXHIBITION CALENDAR

The Committee reviewed the calendar of upcoming exhibitions, with a focus on any exhibit that might be potentially sensitive or controversial, in order to allow for thoughtful and focused planning. Dr. Kurin highlighted exhibitions that will be unveiled at the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in September.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then conducted an executive session, during which it continued discussions from previous meetings regarding a possible Smithsonian presence in London, future uses of the Arts and Industries Building, and Committee membership. The Committee also received an update on the proposed exhibitions at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, Chair