

NOTES OF THE JANUARY 15, 2009, ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Advancement Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents conducted a conference call on January 15, 2008, to review four development papers to be presented to the Board of Regents for action during its January 26, 2009, meeting. Committee Chair Alan G. Spoon participated by teleconference. Present in the Room 124 of the Smithsonian Institution Building were Committee member Robert Kogod and staff members Virginia B. Clark, Director of External Affairs; Zully Dorr, Director of Development Services; John K. Lapiana, Chief of Staff to the Regents; and Jason Balesta, Assistant General Counsel.

In addition to the review of development papers, the agenda consisted of a report on fund raising for the first quarter of fiscal year 2009, which ended on December 31, 2008; a discussion of non-Regent nominees to the Committee; and an update on preparations for the national fund-raising campaign.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. and noted there was not a quorum. He asked that the meeting proceed and that, following the meeting, Committee members receive an e-mail ballot regarding recommendations for the full Board.

Fund-raising Update

Ms. Clark reported on fund-raising results for the first quarter of fiscal year 2009. She said that fiscal year 2009 fund raising was on track to meet the Smithsonian’s fiscal year goal of \$120 million. The Institution raised approximately \$20.1 million, \$6 million of which was raised in December 2008. The Contributing Membership raised \$3.547 million during the first quarter and was on target to meet its fiscal year 2009 goal. Ms. Clark noted the weak economy but said that donors were still giving to the Smithsonian. The Office of Development is carefully monitoring the Institution’s fund-raising plans, and it has reviewed outstanding commitments’ possible exposure to the unstable market. At the time of the meeting, all outstanding commitments were on target. The Committee discussed these matters briefly and Mr. Spoon asked the Development office to continue to be vigilant with regard to outstanding donor commitments.

Advancement Committee Member Nominations Review

There followed a discussion about expanding the membership of the Advancement Committee by adding non-Regent members, as consistent with the Committee bylaws approved in September 2008. Four strong, well-qualified individuals were identified for their potential ability to enhance the activities and interests of the Smithsonian and the Committee, as well as for their interest in serving. The Committee discussed related topics, including the orientation of new Committee members and the time commitment expected of all Committee members. It was agreed that, by e-mail ballot, the candidates would be recommended for Committee membership to the Board of Regents at its January 26, 2009, meeting.

Campaign Planning Update

Ms. Clark reported on the progress of the Institution's national fund-raising campaign. She noted that the Campaign Director had been hired and that the selection of the Campaign Counsel would soon be announced. The Committee discussed the campaign's timetable and how it might be affected by the economy and the Institution's Strategic Planning process.

There being no further business, this meeting of the Advancement Committee was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.