

## **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2010, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met on January 10, 2010, beginning at 11:35 a.m. at the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., to discuss the agenda for the January 25, 2009, meeting of the Board of Regents. In attendance were Chancellor of the Board of Regents John G. Roberts Jr., Chief Justice of the United States; Board Chair Patricia Q. Stonesifer, and Committee member Alan G. Spoon. Committee member Roger W. Sant was unable to attend. Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary G. Wayne Clough, Counselor to the Chief Justice Jeffrey P. Minear, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia Bartlett, Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana, and General Counsel Judith Leonard.

Ms. Stonesifer called the meeting to order.

### **REVIEW OF JANUARY 24, 2010, REGENTS EMERITI PROGRAM**

Ms. Stonesifer noted that all Regents emeriti have been invited to attend a briefing led by the Secretary on the Strategic Plan and dinner with the current Regents at the National Museum of Natural History. At dinner, Cristián Samper, the Museum’s director, will discuss the challenges facing the Earth’s oceans.

The briefing and dinner mark the first formal outreach to Regents emeriti and Ms. Stonesifer said she expects that the Regents will repeat the effort every three to five years. Regents emeriti, the Committee members agreed, are an important and underutilized Smithsonian stakeholder group. Eleven Regent emeriti and their guests are expected to participate. Smithsonian staff members have offered emeriti behind-the-scenes tours the following day.

### **AGENDA FOR THE BOARD OF REGENTS’ MEETING**

Ms. Stonesifer noted that the agenda was designed to engage the Regents with the Smithsonian’s strategic initiatives in science, particularly those in the area of biodiversity. Future Regents’ meetings will similarly focus on a single overarching topic, such as the American experience or world cultures.

She then directed the Committee’s attention to the agenda for the meeting contained in the draft meeting book, previously distributed to the Committee on December 30, 2009.

**Report of the Chair of the Board and the Executive Committee.** Ms. Stonesifer said that in her report, she will lead a discussion of the 2009 Regents’ self-assessment. She noted that although the results were still being tallied, participation was expected to significantly exceed that in 2008.

**Report of the Secretary.** Secretary Clough explained that his report would consist of two major parts. The first would be an update of news from around the Smithsonian. The “headline,” he said, would be that visitation is over 30 million for the first time since 2000. He said that maintaining that level for 2010 would be a challenge without hallmark events

such as the Inauguration boosting visitation to Washington, D.C., but noted his belief that early results indicate that “last year was not a fluke.”

In addition, the Secretary indicated he would highlight awards and citations the Smithsonian and its staff received in 2009 and recent senior hires, such as Bill Moggridge at Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum. Two nascent initiatives will also be discussed: the best practices review and a Smithsonian branding study. In both instances, the Secretary stressed that the Regents’ input and guidance would be actively solicited.

The second major part of the Secretary’s report will focus on the Smithsonian’s fiscal year 2010 organizational goals. Ms. Stonesifer noted that the Committee had been providing the Secretary with input as the goals were being developed and that the Secretary will ask the Regents to affirm the goals at the meeting.

**Finance Committee.** Ms. Stonesifer reviewed the draft Finance Committee report, focusing on the fiscal year 2011 budget negotiations with the Office of Management and Budget. The “settlement,” if enacted by Congress, would represent a 5 percent increase over the fiscal year 2010 Federal budget. After reviewing the fiscal year 2011 Federal facilities capital budget, Mr. Spoon suggested that staff create a more graphic way of presenting the status of capital projects.

Ms. Stonesifer said that the meeting agenda had been drafted to also allow the Regents to conduct a meaningful conversation with the Secretary on the fiscal year 2012 Federal budget climate.

**Investment Committee.** Ms. Stonesifer said that Investment Committee Chair David Silfen would provide a detailed update on the Smithsonian’s Endowment and that committee’s asset allocation strategies.

**Lunch.** Secretary Clough noted that paleoanthropologist Rick Potts, the director of the Smithsonian’s Human Origins Program and curator of anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History, would be the Regents’ luncheon speaker. Dr. Potts will discuss the creation of the David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins, which is scheduled to open in March 2010. Committee members noted that the Hall may be controversial and stressed that the Smithsonian must be respectful of differing points of view. The Secretary explained that significant outreach was conducted during the development of the Hall, including the establishment of a religious advisory group.

**Compensation and Human Resources.** Ms. Stonesifer explained that the Committee’s report will be conducted in executive session. The Board will be asked to review the Secretary’s performance for fiscal year 2009 and approve his compensation for 2010. In addition, the Board will review the compensation recommendations for approximately 15 other senior officers. Compensation recommendations, both Ms. Stonesifer and the Secretary noted, will reflect the increase range being applied to the Federal civil service and the poor economy.

**Strategic Planning and Programs Committee.** The Secretary and Strategic Planning and Programs Committee Chair Doris O. Matsui will lead a discussion on two recurring topics—the proposed International Museum Training Program and the future of the Arts and Industries Building. With regard to the latter, Secretary Clough noted that the presidentially appointed commission on a proposed National Museum of the American Latino informed the Smithsonian that the Arts and Industries Building would likely be identified as a potential location for the new museum.

**Governance and Nominating Committee.** Ms. Stonesifer explained that the Governance and Nominating Committee will recommend that the Board elect Robert P. Kogod as a member of the Executive Committee to replace Roger W. Sant, who is rotating off of that committee. In addition, the Board will vote on committee assignments for 2010. Committee members also noted that Congressional Regent Christopher Dodd had announced earlier that morning his intention to not seek reelection as a Senator from Connecticut. Senator Dodd's retirement will result in a new Senate Regent being appointed in 2010.

**Smithsonian National Board Report.** Ms. Stonesifer noted that Paul Neely, the new chair of the Smithsonian National Board (SNB), will make his inaugural report at the meeting. The SNB is scheduled to meet on January 22–23, 2010, and, because the Secretary will be in Antarctica, Ms. Stonesifer has accepted an invitation to attend the SNB's business session.

**Facilities Committee.** Ms. Stonesifer reviewed the Facilities Committee materials, noting that the Regents will be asked to approve a request for Congressional authorization for certain construction at the National Zoological Park's facility in Front Royal, Virginia. The Secretary pointed to the proposed presentation on sustainability at the Smithsonian and explained the key role sustainability plays in the Smithsonian's fiscal years 2010–2015 Strategic Plan.

**Advancement Committee.** Mr. Spoon provided a preview of the January 13, 2010, Advancement Committee meeting agenda, which will form the basis for his report to the Board. He said that staff and the Smithsonian's outside consultants have been looking closely at the proposed costs of the national campaign and potential methods of funding. Mr. Spoon noted that he is working with staff on a calendar for the Regents' approval of campaign milestones, budgets, and funding sources. Mr. Spoon noted that a fundamental concern is the need for an automated donor records management system.

The Secretary noted that a latent benefit of the campaign after its completion will be a significantly larger donor base and a staff trained in sophisticated development processes.

The meeting was concluded at 12:55 p.m. with members and the Secretary joining the Chancellor for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Q. Stonesifer, Chair