

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2009, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution held a meeting on June 10, 2009, beginning at noon at the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., to discuss the agenda for the June 22, 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 Stonesifer; Vice Chair Alan G. Spoon; and Committee member Roger W. Sant. Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary G. Wayne Clough; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia L. Bartlett; Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana; General Counsel Judith Leonard; and Counselor to the Chief Justice Jeffrey P. Minear.

Ms. Stonesifer called the meeting to order and began by welcoming Ms. Leonard to the Smithsonian.

Review of the Agenda for the Board of Regents’ Meeting

Ms. Stonesifer noted that the draft agenda anticipated that a significant portion of both this Executive Committee meeting and the June 22, 2009, full Board meeting would be devoted to the development of the Smithsonian strategic plan. However, she said that the strategic plan was “rightly” delayed to allow the Secretary’s team to address issues raised by unit directors at a June 2, 2009, meeting. Ms. Stonesifer said that the Committee will comment on the draft plan at appropriate milestones over the summer and that the full Board will review the plan at its September 21, 2009, meeting.

She then directed the Committee’s attention to the proposed agenda for the June Regents’ meeting contained in the draft meeting book, previously distributed to the Committee on June 5, 2009.

Report of the Board and Executive Committee Chair

Ms. Stonesifer noted that on behalf of the Executive Committee, she will seek approval of a motion to designate Eli Broad as a Regent Emeritus and that, as part of her report, she also will alert the Regents to the upcoming Donor Dinner on September 20, 2009, and the annual public meeting of the Board of Regents on September 21, 2009.

Report of the Secretary

Secretary Clough then previewed the Report of the Secretary for the Committee. He said that his report will begin with a review of the strategic planning initiative. The Secretary reviewed the inclusive process employed in developing the plan and that his goal is to present the plan for “adoption” by the Board in September 2009. Mr. Sant added that to achieve that goal, both the Strategic Planning and Programs Committee and the Executive Committee will likely conduct meetings in July and/or August 2009. Ms. Stonesifer added that the Regents will be reviewing the mission themes and goals, and that the implementation plan would follow. In four to six weeks, Ms. Stonesifer noted, the Executive Committee should receive directionally ready components of the plan for comment.

The Secretary then asked the Committee to review the “ultra chart” contained in the materials. The chart illustrates the various initiatives being conducted across the Institution, including the strategic plan, the national campaign, and the organizational structure review. In response to Mr. Spoon’s question, Secretary Clough explained that the organizational review will look at how the Smithsonian is administratively structured and will help identify improvements in business processes. Secretary Clough noted that the Smithsonian is not currently structured to encourage efficient communications and decision-making processes. Mr. Spoon added that such inefficiencies are not uncommon at universities and stressed that the Smithsonian must identify best practices and become facile in the use of incentives to improve performance. Ms. Stonesifer noted that the Finance Committee will be the Regents’ partners for advice on these issues.

The Secretary said that his report will also include brief updates on asbestos issues, the Legacy fund, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act spending, and senior executive searches. He added that calendar year-to-date attendance is up at the Smithsonian by approximately two million visitors, as compared to the prior year’s attendance records.

Public and Government Communications Strategy

Secretary Clough next previewed the Public and Government Communications presentation to the Board. He noted that staff will be seeking the Regents’ input on a new plan. In the past, he explained, the Smithsonian’s communications outreach efforts were more reactive and “old school,” with little emphasis placed on the Smithsonian’s science achievements and the use of outmoded vehicles for engagement. The new strategy will be much more dynamic.

In response to the Chancellor’s question, Secretary Clough noted that Congressional Regents already serve as effective ambassadors on Capitol Hill and have been instrumental in articulating the Smithsonian’s interests to their colleagues.

Remainder of the Morning Session

Ms. Stonesifer then reviewed the remainder of the morning session’s agenda, and noted that the “**New Discoveries**” presentation reflected the continuing commitment to presenting new “mission attachment” opportunities for the Regents. Mr. Spoon strongly endorsed the emphasis, and predicted that the Regents’ overall experience will benefit from persistent exposure to the work of the Smithsonian.

Following the “New Discoveries” presentation, the **Investment and Finance Committees** will present reports to the Board. Mr. Sant, who chairs the Finance Committee, said that the major issue for that committee’s discussion will be the Endowment payout for fiscal year 2010. He noted that the Finance Committee would be addressing the issue at its meeting scheduled for later that day.

The luncheon speaker, Ms. Stonesifer said, will be Dr. Scott Wing, a scientist at the National Museum of Natural History. His talk is entitled “Ancient Global Warming: Implications for

Our Future.”

Overview of the Afternoon Session

Ms. Stonesifer noted that the report of the **Strategic Planning and Programs Committee** will be presented by Committee Chair Doris O. Matsui, who will briefly update the Board on an initiative to create an international training program for museum professionals. She noted that the Strategic Planning and Programs Committee had directed staff to ascertain whether the project would enjoy the strong support of the United States Government and to report again to that committee with such information in hand.

Mr. Spoon explained that the Report of the **Advancement Committee** will be relatively routine. He said that he will present progress reports on the planning for the national campaign and the status of fund raising to date, as well as seek the Board’s support for some routine donor motions and notifications.

The **Facilities Committee**, Ms. Stonesifer explained, will present a motion seeking to authorize the Secretary to execute a lease for additional space for the National Postal Museum. Located above the Museum in the Postal Square Building, the space is currently occupied by a restaurant.

Mr. Sant explained that the report of the **Compensation and Human Resources Committee** will note that the salaries of market-based senior executives will continue to be frozen. The Compensation and Human Resources Committee is scheduled to meet on June 16, 2009, and will discuss information in anticipation of the 2010 compensation process.

Ms. Stonesifer noted that the **Governance and Nominating Committee** will present proposed appointments to several Smithsonian advisory boards and to the Regents’ Finance Committee.

Following the **Legislative Report**, Ms. Stonesifer suggested that Ms. Leonard use the **Report of the General Counsel** as an opportunity to introduce herself to the full Board and explain her goals for the Office of General Counsel.

Before adjourning, the Committee discussed the annual public meeting scheduled for September 22, 2009, and potential frameworks to ensure meaningful engagement with stakeholders.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Stonesifer, Chair