

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 31, 2016, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MORNING MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) met on March 31, 2016, at the Supreme Court of the United States in Washington, DC. Participating were Chancellor John G. Roberts, Jr.; Executive Committee and Board Chair John W. McCarter, Jr.; Vice Chair Shirley Ann Jackson; and Committee member David Rubenstein.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Skorton; Counselor to the Chief Justice Jeffrey P. Minear; Acting Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Rachel Parker; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

Mr. McCarter called the meeting to order at approximately 11:30 a.m.

AGENDA REVIEW

Mr. McCarter thanked the Chancellor for hosting the meeting and outlined the agenda for the morning, which consisted primarily of a review of the proposed agenda for the April 11, 2016, Board of Regents’ first strategic meeting.

Regents’ Dinner: On Sunday, April 10, the Smithsonian will hold its annual donor dinner at the Renwick Gallery of Art. This year, the donor group that will be recognized will be the Smithsonian’s top group of donors, who are a part of a new program called the Smithsonian Academy (“Academy”). Regent, Ambassador Barbara Barrett and Dr. Craig Barrett are chairing the Academy, and in conjunction with the Office of Advancement, have arranged for a weekend of events including talks from cultural-heritage-preservation professionals and a private tour of the Blair House.

Morning Session

Business Session: The first item on the meeting agenda will be a short business session, during which the Board will vote on the consent agenda and in executive session, will discuss London, the Arts and Industries Building, and the search process for two new Regents.

Guest Speakers: Following the business session, the Board will hear from four guest speakers. The Board will have an opportunity to ask questions, following each speaker’s presentation.

The first speaker will be Jaron Lanier, a computer scientist, classical musician, composer, artist, and author, who will give the Regents an overview of technological trends that are affecting museums.

Next, Regent Michael Lynton will interview Michael Govan, the Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, about the future of art museums.

Then, Ambassador Barrett will interview Ellen Futter, President of the American Museum of Natural History, on the future of natural history and science museums.

The last speaker will be *New York Times* bestselling author Adam Grant, who will speak about organizational success.

Afternoon Invitation-Only Session

Working Lunch - Envisioning the Future of the Smithsonian: Following the series of guest speakers, the Board will transition to a working lunch, where the Regents will have an opportunity to reflect upon the guest speakers' presentations and discuss the strategic direction of the Smithsonian.

Results of the 2015 Self-Assessment and Review of Governance Structure and Function: Next, the Governance and Nominating Committee will lead a discussion on the results of the 2015 Regent self-assessment and review the Smithsonian's governance structure and function.

Task Groups' Description and Update: The last session of the day will include an introduction and overview by Secretary Skorton of the four task groups that were created to review the Smithsonian's policies and procedures related to contracting, transparency, unified compensation, and use of funds. The task groups have been charged with considering whether modifications are appropriate while protecting the important governance reforms that were implemented in 2007. The task groups will present final recommendations to the Board in June.

OTHER BUSINESS

Secretary Skorton provided the Committee with an update on several proposed exhibits at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. He further explained that the history, art, and culture exhibits have the potential to generate some degree of controversy and briefed the Committee on the recommendation he planned to make to the full Board.

The Secretary then provided an update on the status of the Smithsonian's opportunity for a presence in London. In January 2015, the Board of Regents voted to authorize Smithsonian management to move forward with exploring possibilities for a potential Smithsonian presence in London. Over the ensuing 15 months, management has explored multiple scenarios and conducted the appropriate due diligence for each potential option. At the April meeting, the Board will be briefed on a potential partnership opportunity with a London-based entity.

The Secretary provided an update on future plans for use of the Arts & Industries Building. The space is currently being used as a special events venue. A wide-range of options for future use of the historic building are being considered.

Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson then updated the Committee on the status of the search for two new Regents needed to replace Shirley Ann Jackson and Robert P. Kogod, whose

terms will expire in May 2017.

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. McCarter, Jr.
Chair