

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2012, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met on February 27, 2012, beginning at 1:00 p.m. (EST). Participating were Executive Committee and Board Chair France A. Córdova, Vice Chair Patricia Q. Stonesifer, and Committee member Shirley Ann Jackson. Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary G. Wayne Clough; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia Bartlett; Associate Director of Human Resources Gregory Bettwy; Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Director of Government Relations Nell Payne; and Director of Media Relations Linda St. Thomas.

Dr. Córdova called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2012, MEETING

The Committee approved the draft minutes of the January 12, 2012, meeting with one editorial correction.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

National Campaign Update: Secretary Clough began his monthly report with an update on the national campaign. He noted that the annual advisory board chairs’ retreat on May 15, 2012, will also include members of the advisory boards’ advancement committees and the chairs of the campaign steering committee. A portion of the agenda will be devoted to the campaign’s launch. Dr. Córdova will host the retreat.

The fiscal year 2012 fundraising goal is \$200 million. As of January 31, 2012, Secretary Clough said that the Smithsonian had raised \$66 million. He added that a number of significant gifts (cumulatively totaling \$46 million) will be presented to the full Board for approval at its April 30, 2012, meeting. Relative to the goals of the national campaign, Secretary Clough said that approximately \$480 million has been raised and, “with a little luck,” the \$500 million mark may be achieved by the mid-May advisory board chair retreat.

National Women’s Museum: Secretary Clough briefed the Committee on a meeting with the leaders of the National Women’s Museum effort. The Secretary explained that he, along with certain Smithsonian museum directors, presented the Smithsonian’s increased and aggressive efforts to acknowledge the contributions of women to history, art, culture, and science in Smithsonian exhibitions and other programs. Ms. Payne added that recently proposed legislation passed by the House of Representatives would formally establish the museum without any provisions for Federal appropriations. Overall, Secretary Clough characterized the meeting as presenting a good opportunity to foster an ongoing “dialogue” between the Smithsonian and the National Women’s Museum’s leadership.

Senior Level Searches: Secretary Clough provided a status report on multiple senior-level searches of interest to the Board:

- **Chief Information Officer:** Secretary Clough noted that Deron Burba was selected by Under Secretary for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer Al Horvath to be the Chief Information Officer.
- **National Museum of American History:** The director search for the National Museum of American History was progressing, Secretary Clough said, adding that the search committee, chaired by Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Richard Kurin, was conducting interviews to identify the top three or four finalists. Dr. Kurin plans to invite Regent input into the final selection process.
- **Smithsonian Enterprises:** Salary negotiations were under way with the final candidate for President of Smithsonian Enterprises. Secretary Clough anticipates announcing the appointment in the very near future.¹
- **National Museum of Natural History:** Members of a search committee have been identified and final interviews for a search firm are currently being conducted to support the search for a new director of the National Museum of Natural History. The search is being led by Under Secretary for Science Eva Pell, whose goal is to have a new director in place immediately after the current director departs on July 31, 2012.

Education Strategic Planning: Secretary Clough updated the Committee on progress made toward developing a pan-institutional education strategic plan. He noted that an education retreat was conducted on February 13, 2012, with a goal to present a plan (consisting of two “big [education] ideas”) at the April 30, 2012, Regents’ meeting.

The “big ideas” will build on the significant work already achieved by two consortia: American Experience and Biodiversity. Retreat participants emphasized the importance of evaluation and assessment of the Smithsonian’s educational initiatives and agreed that the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Education and Access was the “ideal place” to oversee those efforts. Finally, the Secretary discussed the critical importance of the digitization effort as an educational tool that also increases meaningful access to the Smithsonian’s collections.

Smithsonian Journeys (Cuba): Secretary Clough noted that he would be visiting congressional offices over the following two days to brief key legislators or their senior staff on the upcoming Smithsonian Journeys trips to Cuba. The Secretary said that he will emphasize that the Smithsonian exercised due caution and adhered to all Treasury Department rules in planning the trips. At the same time, he said the Smithsonian would be open to any ideas that would permit the trips to take place and address congressional concerns about the state of human rights in Cuba (e.g., written background materials or briefing for the travelers). Both Ms. St. Thomas and Ms. Payne have stressed to outside stakeholders that the travel advances the Smithsonian’s mission and is compliant with United States law and policy. The Smithsonian is

currently identifying suitable alternative travel arrangements for travelers if Journeys is unable to conduct the tours.

SECRETARY TRAVEL ISSUES

Dr. Cordova explained that Senator Charles Grassley has requested documents related to Secretary and Mrs. Clough's business travel and asked Ms. Payne and Ms. St. Thomas to update the Committee on the Smithsonian's response plans. Senator Grassley's request followed a production under the Smithsonian's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) policy of similar documents to the website junketslueth.com. Dr. Córdoba noted, however, that the scope of Senator Grassley's request was broader than the junketslueth.com request—the Senator seeks documents from, July 1, 2008, to the present, while the junketslueth.com request covered only July 1, 2008, to July 1, 2011.

Ms. Leonard said that her office is currently reviewing the responsive documents and, at this point, was unaware of any travel that was either inappropriate or inconsistent with policy. Ms. Payne explained the process employed to collect and prepare the documents for production. In response to a request by the House Administration Committee, Ms. Payne said that documents will also be provided to that committee's staff.

Committee members discussed the utility of a Regent response to Senator Grassley. Ms. Stonesifer suggested that a statement from the Executive Committee to the Board be prepared after members reviewed the General Counsel's report.² The Committee agreed and requested that Ms. Leonard provide members her report upon its completion.

Ms. Leonard also noted that the Office of the Inspector General is planning to conduct a broader review of senior staff (including the Secretary) travel in the coming months.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee conducted a Regents-only executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

France A. Córdoba
Chair

¹ On March 8, 2012, the Secretary announced the appointment of Chris Liedel as President of Smithsonian Enterprises.

² On March 5, 2012, the Executive Committee distributed the following statement to the Board of Regents:

On March 2, 2012, the Smithsonian provided Senator Charles Grassley with Secretary and Mrs. Clough's travel records covering the period of July 1, 2008, to January 31, 2012. At the Executive Committee's February 27 meeting, we asked the General Counsel to review those records and report back to us. After considering the General Counsel's findings, we are confident that the travel taken and expenses incurred were appropriate and advanced the interests of the Smithsonian. The results of the review underscored the Secretary's prudent stewardship of Smithsonian resources.

As part of the Regents' efforts to strengthen governance, the Smithsonian adopted a travel review process in 2007 to reflect the best practices of the Federal and non-profit sectors. Smithsonian policies conform with Federal travel regulations. The Secretary's travel is reviewed and approved by the Chief Financial Officer and Mrs. Clough's travel must be approved in advance by both the Chief Financial Officer and the General Counsel. Senior executive travel, including the Secretary's, is audited quarterly and the results are reported to the Audit and Review Committee. The full Board is also advised of the Secretary's travel as part of its annual compensation review process.

The Smithsonian is a global educational and research enterprise. Effective leadership requires the Secretary to be personally engaged with key stakeholders or Smithsonian activities in Washington, across the country, and around the world. As our national campaign accelerates, we expect that the Secretary's travel will necessarily increase.

Finally, we would like to take this instance to applaud the Secretary for his visionary, responsible leadership of the Smithsonian over the past four years.

[Signed by the Executive Committee]