

## MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2010, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met on June 9, 2010, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., to discuss the agenda for the June 21, 2010, 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 Robert P. Kogod. 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, General Counsel Judith Leonard, and Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana.

Ms. Stonesifer called the meeting to order and thanked the Chancellor on behalf of the Committee for accommodating members during a particularly busy time for the Supreme Court.

### AGENDA FOR BOARD OF REGENTS’ MEETING

Ms. Stonesifer observed that the agenda for the June 21 Regents’ meeting is full and noted that two issues will likely dominate deliberations: the results of the best practices/reorganization study, which will be considered in the morning session, and planning for the national campaign, which will be discussed during the afternoon session.

**Report of the Chair and the Executive Committee.** The meeting will begin with Ms. Stonesifer’s report of the Chair and the Executive Committee. Since the last full Board meeting on April 12, 2010, the Executive Committee met two times: this meeting and on May 18, 2010. During the May 18 meeting, the Committee approved, on behalf of the Board, a corporate sponsorship agreement between Warner Bros. and the National Museum of American History. Although the Committee would have preferred that the full Board consider the agreement, Ms. Stonesifer noted that it had acted in response to a request by the Secretary and the Museum’s director. According to the Museum, approval was necessary in May 2010 to accommodate continued negotiations on other issues with Warner Bros.

The Committee also approved the appointment of David Rockwell to the Board of Trustees of Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum. The Committee’s action will allow Mr. Rockwell to participate in the next meeting of that board.

**Report of the Secretary.** Secretary Clough explained that his report will cover a number of topics ranging from his recent trip to Alaska to current attendance trends and an update on the branding initiative. The Secretary’s report will be followed by the first of what will be a routine reporting opportunity by Under Secretary for Finance and Administration Alison McNally on the financial status of the Smithsonian. Ms. Stonesifer noted that the financial snapshot contained in the draft meeting book was a “work-in-progress” and said she is anxious to solicit the Board’s thought on how to fashion future reports.

**Best Practices and Organizational Structure.** Secretary Clough will present the Institution's response to the recent best practices study and a potential redesign of the Smithsonian organizational chart that is intended to better support the implementation of the strategic plan. After the Secretary's presentation, Roger Sant, chair of the Finance Committee, will discuss the recommendations and observations of the Finance Committee Advisory Group, which was established to help the Finance Committee oversee the study. Ms. Stonesifer will engage the Regents in a discussion of the aspects of the study that impact the role of Regents in the operations of the Smithsonian.

**Report of the Finance Committee.** The Secretary and Mr. Sant will seek approval of the proposed Endowment payout for fiscal year 2011 and the Federal budget priorities for fiscal year 2012.

**Report of the Investment Committee.** Investment Committee Chair David Silfen will attend the Board meeting and present a report on the state of the Endowment. In addition, Mr. Silfen will ask, on behalf of the Investment Committee, for the Regents to adopt the principles of the Uniform Prudent Management of Investment Funds Act (UPMIFA) to guide the management of Smithsonian Endowment funds.

**Lunch Speaker.** Dr. Bert Drake, a scientist at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, will discuss "ecosystem services in managing rising carbon dioxide."

**National Campaign and the Report of the Advancement Committee.** The Secretary and Mr. Spoon outlined the planned discussion on the National Campaign. The Secretary will present the status of planning for the campaign, including the points at which the Regents' approvals will be sought. Mr. Spoon presented an overview of the campaign for the Committee and noted the concerns of the Advancement Committee, which he also chairs. The Committee discussed several alternatives on how the discussion should be framed to elicit the most participation. The Committee also discussed the longstanding concern that donors may be hesitant to make gifts if the amount of those gifts were offset by a decrease in Federal appropriations. The Committee agreed that it is important for the Smithsonian to establish that will not be the case, and discussed options to memorialize that understanding. Mr. Spoon said that the issue will be a substantive part of the Advancement Committee report.

The Advancement Committee will also present five gifts for approval, including a \$20 million gift from Peter Buck to establish an endowment to support a fellowship and internship program to train museum professionals based at the Natural History Museum.

**Reports of the Office of Government Relations.** Ms. Stonesifer directed the members' attention to the draft Report of the Office of Government Relations. The report generally documents proposed legislation that may affect Smithsonian operations or impact its mission-related activities. The Committee asked that the Report also include a brief update on the status of the Legacy Fund in light of the Secretary's upcoming meeting with Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).

**Report of the General Counsel.** Ms. Leonard will update the Board on pending litigation during its executive session at the June 21 meeting. Capsule summaries of current actions were included in the Committee's materials, and a similar privileged and confidential document will be included in the meeting materials for the full Board.

**International Museum Professionals Training Program and Report of the Strategic Planning and Programs Committee.** Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Richard Kurin will present the status of the Abu Dhabi pilot for the International Museum Professionals Training Program. The Strategic Planning and Programs Committee considered a draft list of potential contract terms on June 7, 2010, and Committee Chair Doris O. Matsui will present that committee's observations following Dr. Kurin's report.

**Executive Session.** Ms. Stonesifer noted that the Regents-only portion of the June 21 executive session may include a continuation of the day's earlier discussion on the roles and responsibilities of Regents and staff in significant decisions [about . . . what?].

The meeting was concluded at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Stonesifer  
Chair