MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2009, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The Strategic Planning and Programs Committee ("the Committee") of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution held a meeting on January 12, 2009, beginning at 9:05 a.m. in the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, D.C. Participating were Committee Chair Representative Doris Matsui* and members Senator Chris Dodd* (beginning at 9:50 a.m.); Senator Patrick Leahy* (beginning at 9:15 a.m.); Phillip Frost*; and ex officio member*Roger Sant*. In attendance were Secretary Wayne Clough, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia Bartlett, Associate General Counsel Rachelle Browne, Office of the Regents Program Officer Grace Jaeger; Senior Executive Officer Pherabe Kolb, Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana, Assistant to Congresswoman Matsui Alexis Marks*; Assistant to Senator Dodd Colin McGinnis*; and Office of Policy and Analysis Director Carole Neves.

The Chair called the meeting to order.

Report of the Chair

Chair Matsui provided a progress report on the Smithsonian's Strategic Planning Initiative, which was the focus of the meeting. She reminded the Committee that it is the responsibility of the Regents to provide oversight of and guidance to the Strategic Planning Initiative, including overseeing its cost. She reported that Phase I was nearing completion with stakeholder interviews continuing through January 2009 and that Phase II would take place from February through May 2009. Phase II will be informed by data collected in Phase I and will involve small focus groups tasked with preparing future scenarios for the Smithsonian. The actual strategic plan will be written during Phase III, which will be conducted from May to September 2009 and then followed by an internal implementation phase to inform the forthcoming capital campaign. The total cost of the initiative will be $1.2 million and will include $492,954 for Phase I, $448,000 for Phase II, and $349,000 for Phase III. To date, $400,000 has been donated for the initiative and efforts to raise additional funds are ongoing.

Secretary Clough and Ms. Bartlett updated the Committee on the data collection process that was followed by the Office Policy and Analysis,Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH)and Global Business Network (GBN) to complete Phase I. Secretary Clough noted that recent events in the world economy have made the development of a Smithsonian strategic plan even more important. He praised the team of BAH and GBN, as well as Smithsonian staff from the Office of Policy and Analysis and the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, and noted that thus far the work has been postive and on track. He conceded that the strategic planning initiative is a labor-intensive process, but said that important feedback had been produced through efforts to date. Phase I focused on information-gathering from many stakeholders and included that received from the public during the Regents' open meeting in November 2008. Ms. Barlett agreed that the team had received good feedback during Phase I that it hoped to compile and share with the Committee shortly. The Committee then discussed whether to proceed to Phase II.

present by teleconference

Phase II will be more internally focused, technical, and structured. Led by Peter Schwartz of GBN, approximately 100 employees and outside stakeholders will be asked to participate in four two-day scenario workshops designed to develop one-to-two positive future scenarios and two-to-three risk scenarios. A final plenary workshop will be held in May 2009 with all participants. It was noted that the Regents had been invited to observe the workshops and that BAH and GBN will provide a lengthy internal working document with a shorter communications document for wider distribution in late May.

Dr. Neves then discussed the internal survey sent out during Phase I. Of 6,000 staff members who received the survey, approximately 1,000 responded, many from the Office of Protection Services. The response rate was approximately 20%, which Dr. Neves said was average for surveys of similar length and timing. She reported that many insightful comments had been received and that a summary was being prepared to share with the Committee shortly, as well as to post on the Web. Issues raised in the survey included the insularity of the Institution's units, technology, and a need for change. Senator Leahy commented that the Smithsonian is often seen as separate parts and not as a whole and one challenge for the Secretary will be to encourage the units to work together. Secretary Clough said the strategic planning process had already produced unexpected results, such as generating ideas with regard to new ways the arts and the sciences can work together.

The Committee then approved a motion to recommend to the Board of Regents that the Institution proceed to Phase II of the strategic planning process and implement the next stage of the strategic planning contract.

> **VOTED** that the Strategic Programs and Planning Committee recommends to the Board of Regents that approves the launch of Phase II of the strategic planning process and implement the next stage of the strategic planning contract.

Update on the Arts and Industries Building

Secretary Clough reported that he had received several calls from Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) with regard to the status of the Arts and Industries Building. He said that the Smithsonian was requesting $75 million in Federal funding for the building's basic infrastructure. He said that the funding request would be included in either the fiscal year 2009 budget request or the proposed stimulus package. In addition, he said that he was engaged in talks with regard to the building as a possible donor prospect. The Secretary said that he wanted to have a focused, programmatic study of possibilities for the building and would create an internal group to study other museums for ideas; he added that a briefing for the Committee would soon be arranged.

Adjournment

The meeting was then adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Matsui, Chair