

## **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2019, ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Advancement Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) held a teleconference meeting on January 9, 2019. Participating were Committee Chair Christine Udvar-Hazy and Committee members Allan Holt, Dennis Keller, John W. McCarter, Jr., Frank Raines, and David Rubenstein.

Present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary David Skorton; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Provost/Under Secretary for Museums, Education, and Research John Davis; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Advancement Zully Dorr; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester; Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder); Inspector General Cathy Helm; Under Secretary for Finance and Administration/Chief Operating Officer Al Horvath; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Administration Mike McCarthy; Assistant Secretary for Advancement Robert Spiller; and Director of Planned Giving John-Joseph van Haelewyn.

### **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Committee Chair Christine Udvar-Hazy called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda. Ms. Udvar-Hazy welcomed the Advancement Committee and invited Dennis Keller, Allan Holt, and Frank Raines to update Committee members on recent advancement activities, including the fly-in programs for select cities, and fundraising progress for the National Air and Space Museum Ignite Tomorrow campaign and the National Museum of African American History and Culture endowment.

### **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2018, MEETING MINUTES**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the September 21, 2018, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

### **SECRETARY’S UPDATE**

The Secretary updated the Committee on the impact of the federal government shutdown. Despite the shutdown, which began on December 21, 2018, the Smithsonian was able to use fiscal year 2018 carry-forward funds to maintain normal operations through January 1, 2019. Under guidance from the Office of Management and Budget, the Institution implemented shutdown procedures on January 2, 2019. Secretary Skorton reminded the Committee that although all Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo were closed to the public, trust staff, including advancement, who were not furloughed continued normal operations. Items like special events and public programs were cancelled if they were to be held in closed facilities.

Next, Secretary Skorton thanked Al Horvath for his leadership and contributions to the Smithsonian as Chief Operating Officer and Under Secretary for Finance and

*\*Participated by telephone*

Administration. The Secretary also welcomed Mike McCarthy, Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Administration, who will serve as Acting Under Secretary for Finance and Administration beginning January 31.

Secretary Skorton reviewed next steps for three strategic projects: the American Women's History Initiative ("AWHI"), the Smithsonian's collaboration with the Victoria and Albert Museum ("V&A") in London, and the status of the Arts and Industries Building ("AIB"). To date the Smithsonian has raised approximately \$8.6 million to support the AWHI. The Secretary also announced the formation of a National Advisory Committee, which will play a key role in securing resources and representing the key constituencies and stakeholders of the Initiative. The collaboration with the V&A will be the Smithsonian's first long-term programmatic presence outside of the United States. Secretary Skorton shared that the Smithsonian is in discussions with the Foundation for Future London, an organization that would raise philanthropic contributions to support the collaboration. The Secretary also recognized David Rubenstein's gift to support exhibits, programs, and renovations at the Arts and Industries Building. In 2021, the AIB will reopen for the first time in 20 years with a large-scale exhibition, *Smithsonian Pavilion 2021: The Futures*, which will be a major part of the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Institution.

In conclusion, the Secretary updated the Committee on initial plans for the Earth Optimism Summit 2020, which will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. The event will be hosted by the Smithsonian Conservation Commons, and will convene pioneering scientists and researchers, major civic and industry leaders, and philanthropists to discuss and share solutions to preserve biodiversity, protect natural resources, and address climate change.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS OF ILLIQUID ASSETS**

Director of Planned Giving John-Joseph van Haelewyn briefed the Committee on the Smithsonian's proposal to work with the Dechomai Foundation in order to better position the Institution to accept gifts of illiquid assets, in particular real estate. The Dechomai Foundation is a national donor-advised fund that assists charitable organizations and donors in receiving, managing, liquidating, and granting proceeds from non-cash donations. The Committee discussed the opportunities and risks associated with the potential arrangement.

#### **2019 FUNDRAISING PROGRESS AND ADVANCEMENT UPDATE**

Assistant Secretary for Advancement Robert Spiller reported on the Smithsonian's progress towards the fiscal year 2019 fundraising goal of \$220 million. As of November 30, 2018, the Smithsonian had raised approximately \$26.09 million toward its goal. Mr. Spiller reminded the Committee that ambitious annual goals were set for the three fiscal years following the Smithsonian Campaign, with a focus on principal gifts, major gifts, and new prospect discovery.

## REVIEW OF GIFTS

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Advancement Zully Dorr presented two gifts and two administrative motions, all requiring approval by the Committee. Ms. Dorr noted all proposed actions conform to Smithsonian gift policies. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following actions were approved for recommendation to the Board of Regents:

**VOTED** that the Advancement Committee recommends that the Board of Regents recognizes the generosity of the American Express Foundation to the National Museum of African American History and Culture and names the American Express Culture Galleries for 25 years from the date the recognition signage is installed at the entrance to the Culture Galleries.

**VOTED** that the Advancement Committee recommends that the Board of Regents recognizes the generosity of the Upton Trust and names the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute director position the Ira Rubinoff Director.

**VOTED** that the Advancement Committee recommends that the Board of Regents creates the William J. Graham Endowment, a quasi-endowment for the benefit of the National Museum of Natural History to support the Human Origins Program. Further, the Advancement Committee recommends that the Board of Regents authorizes the transfer of the funds identified for this purpose.

**VOTED** that the Advancement Committee recommends that the Board of Regents creates the American Art Journal Fund, a quasi-endowment for the benefit of the Smithsonian American Art Museum to support the American Art journal. Further, the Advancement Committee recommends that the Board of Regents authorizes the transfer of the funds identified for this purpose.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Udvar-Hazy, Chair