

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2024, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) met on January 18, 2024, at the Supreme Court of the United States in Washington, D.C. Participating were Chancellor John G. Roberts, Jr.; Board and Executive Committee Chair Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey; Vice Chair John Fahey; and Committee member Barbara M. Barrett.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Lonnie Bunch; Counselor to the Chief Justice Robert M. Dow, Jr.; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Acting General Counsel Farleigh Earhart; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester; Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

Chancellor John G. Roberts, Jr., called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. The Committee acknowledged John Fahey’s final Executive Committee meeting as Vice Chair of the Board of Regents and thanked him for his leadership and service to the Board and the Smithsonian. The Committee also acknowledged the final Executive Committee meeting for Acting General Counsel Farleigh Earhart, and the Committee thanked her for keeping the Office of the General Counsel running smoothly during the leadership transition.

Board and Executive Committee Chair Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey reviewed the agenda, which consisted primarily of an overview of the January 29, 2024, meeting of the Board of Regents.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the draft minutes of the December 6, 2023, meeting.

OVERVIEW OF THE JANUARY 29, 2024, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

Regents’ Dinner

On Sunday, January 28, at a dinner to be held at the Arts and Industries Building, the Regents will honor Steve Case for his distinguished service to the Smithsonian Institution and present him with a 3D printed mammoth, one of the first objects to be digitized and launched in Open Access, one of the initiatives Steve championed during his tenure.

Regents’ Morning Tour

On Monday, January 29, prior to the start of the business meeting, the Regents will tour the *Lights Out: Recovering Our Night Sky* exhibition at the National Museum of Natural History. The Regents will also have an opportunity to view NASA’s *Hyperwall*. Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey noted that as part of the Smithsonian’s ongoing efforts to strengthen the Institution’s relationship with Congress, Members of Congress were invited to join the Regents for the tour.

Regents' Morning Business Meeting

Executive Session: The Board will begin the business meeting with an executive session. The Regents will be asked to approve the proposed committee chairmanships and memberships for 2024 and review the results of the 2023 self-assessment. The Board also will review and approve the fiscal year 2024 compensation recommendation for the Secretary.

Executive Session with the Secretary: The Board of Regents will then move into an executive session with the Secretary. The Board will consider for approval the fiscal year 2024 compensation recommendations for senior executives. The Regents also will be briefed on the annual workplace culture report and receive an update on the progress of personnel searches for various leadership positions at the Smithsonian.

Report of the Chair and Executive Committee: Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey will deliver the Report of the Chair and Executive Committee. She will recognize transitions for Regents, Smithsonian liaisons, and staff. Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey also will brief the Regents on upcoming events and review any actions approved by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: The Regents will be asked to approve the Consent Agenda ("Agenda"). Action items on the Agenda will include approval of the October Board meeting minutes, appointments and reappointments to Smithsonian advisory boards, and amendments to the Bylaws of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Council.

Questions on Written Committee Reports: The Regents will then have an opportunity to ask questions regarding the written reports submitted by the Advancement Committee; Audit and Review Committee; Compensation and Human Resources Committee; Facilities Committee; Finance Committee; Governance and Nominating Committee; Investment Committee; Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee; Smithsonian National Board; and Office of Government Relations.

Smithsonian Institution Financial Review: Finance Committee Chair Frank Raines will present one motion for the Board's consideration: the fiscal year 2025 federal budget request to Congress. The Secretary will also lead a discussion on federal funding and revenue generating activities.

Report of the Secretary: Secretary Bunch will deliver the Report of the Secretary and update the Board on the state of the Smithsonian. The Secretary will brief the Regents on the Smithsonian's progress on plans for the 250th anniversary of the United States' founding to be recognized in 2026. Smithsonian visitation numbers will also be provided under the Secretary's report.

Luncheon Program – Smithsonian Education Strategy: During lunch, Under Secretary for Education Monique Chism will lead a discussion on growing the Smithsonian education community and share how Smithsonian staff are contributing to education and learning in a variety of roles across the Institution. The pan-institutional education programs that will be featured include Get a Head Start, Museo Móvil/Museum on Wheels, and Youth Innovation in Rural America.

Regents' Afternoon Business Meeting

Update on Human Remains Task Force: To begin the afternoon session, the Secretary will update the Board on the Human Remains Task Force. The Task Force was asked to gather information on the scope of human remains in the custody of Smithsonian units and to consider what Smithsonian policy should be on collecting, borrowing, lending, holding, and conducting research upon them. The Regents will be briefed on the Task Force's policy recommendations to the Secretary.

Strategic Plan Implementation: To conclude the afternoon open session of the meeting, the Regents will be updated on the progress of the strategic plan implementation, including a dashboard overview of the five broad focus areas and twenty-three (23) initiatives, as well as a deeper dive on the Nimble focus area.

Gatekeepers' Session: The Board will conclude the January meeting with its regular session to hear from the "gatekeepers" of the Institution.

Public Forum: Following the executive session, the meeting will adjourn, and the Regents will gather in the Oprah Winfrey Theater at the National Museum of African American History and Culture for the Regents' annual public forum.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee moved into an executive session at approximately 12:30 p.m. to discuss confidential personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, Chair