

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 2021, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) held a videoconference meeting on January 22, 2021. Participating were Chancellor John G. Roberts, Jr.; Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case; Vice Chair Dr. Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey; and Committee member David M. Rubenstein.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Lonnie Bunch, Counselor to the Chief Justice Jeffrey P. Minear, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester, General Counsel Judith Leonard, 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 1:30 p.m.

Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case reviewed the agenda, which consisted primarily of an overview of the February 1, 2021, meeting of the Board of Regents. This was the final Committee meeting for David Rubenstein whose Regent term will end in May 2021.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the draft minutes of the December 14, 2020, meeting without modification.

OVERVIEW OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2021, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

Regents’ Business Meeting

Report of the Chair and Executive Committee: Steve Case will deliver the report of the Chair and Executive Committee. He plans to update the Board on viewing and engagement metrics captured from the Regents’ 2020 annual public forum held on December 15, 2020. This was the first annual public forum to be hosted virtually by the Regents. Mr. Case also will introduce any newly appointed Congressional Regents and Smithsonian liaisons.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Next, the Regents will be asked to approve the Consent Agenda. Action items on the Consent Agenda for the February 1 meeting include approval of the October 2020 Board meeting minutes, a proposed amendment to Smithsonian Directive 807, advisory board appointments and reappointments, and gifts and naming recognitions.

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; Finance Committee;

Governance and Nominating Committee; Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee; Office of Government Relations; and Smithsonian National Board.

Report of the Facilities Committee: Committee Chair David Rubenstein will deliver the report of the Facilities Committee. The Board will be asked to consider a proposed five-year lease extension at the Pennsy Drive facility in Landover, MD, which provides administrative space and collections storage for several Smithsonian units.

Report of the Audit and Review Committee: Next, Committee Chair Risa Lavizzo-Mourey will deliver the report of the Audit and Review Committee. Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey will brief the Board on the draft audit results for the fiscal year 2020 financial statements from the Smithsonian's external auditors, KPMG.

Update on the Smithsonian Campaign: Secretary Lonnie Bunch will then update the Board on the planning efforts and recent developments regarding the Smithsonian's institution-wide fundraising campaign, which has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Status Report on the Smithsonian's COVID-19 Response: Next, the Secretary will update the Board on the Smithsonian's ongoing response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. The status report will be divided into three main topics: the Smithsonian's COVID-19 vaccine deployment, the Institution's reopening plans, and public outreach related to the pandemic, including vaccine public education programming.

Strategic Discussion on New Smithsonian Museums: The Secretary will also lead a strategic discussion on the two new Smithsonian museums authorized by Congress in December: the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian Women's History Museum. The Regent discussions will focus on appropriated and private funding for the new museums and the funding impact on the Institution, site selection and collections acquisitions, and the process for vetting and selecting candidates for the museums' advisory boards.

Strategic Report of the Secretary: To conclude the open session of the meeting, Secretary Bunch will deliver the Strategic Report of the Secretary and update the Board on the state of the Smithsonian. His report will focus on building a nimble, cost-effective, and responsive core infrastructure; advancing the Virtual Smithsonian; expanding on the One Smithsonian approach; amplifying education activities; convening critical contemporary conversations; and adoption and implementation of recommendations from the Smithsonian's New Normal Committee.

Gatekeepers' Session: The Board will then move into an executive session to conduct its regular "gatekeeper" session, which will provide an opportunity for the Board to hear from the General Counsel, Under Secretary for Administration, Inspector General, and Secretary.

Executive Session with Secretary: The Board will continue in an executive session with the Secretary to discuss confidential business and personnel matters, including an update on the Smithsonian’s relationship with the Friends of the National Zoo (“FONZ”). The Board of Regents will also be briefed on the annual report on workplace culture at the Smithsonian. The Board will then review and approve the fiscal year 2021 compensation recommendations for senior executives.

Executive Session: The Board will conclude its deliberations in a Regents-only executive session, during which the Board will discuss the 2020 secretarial performance review. The Governance and Nominating Committee Chair John Fahey will lead the Board’s review of a proposed amendment to the Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee Charter. The Board will also be asked to consider the proposed committee chairmanships and memberships for 2021. The executive session will conclude with the Board’s review of the results of the Regents’ 2020 self-assessment and the election of a new citizen Regent.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Case, Chair