

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2017, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a teleconference meeting on December 14, 2017. Participating were Board and Executive Committee Chair David Rubenstein, Vice Chair Steve Case, and Executive Committee member Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Skorton, 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, and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

Board and Executive Committee Chair David Rubenstein called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed members and staff participating via phone.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the draft minutes of the September 6, 2017, and October 12, 2017, meetings without modification.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

The Secretary gave an update on his and Mr. Rubenstein’s meetings with Representatives Ken Calvert, Rodney Frelinghuysen, and Gregg Harper to discuss the Smithsonian’s federal funding and the impacts that limited funding could have on the revitalization project of the National Air and Space Museum. Similar meetings are scheduled with members of the Senate. The Secretary then gave an update on the success of the recent Short Conversation and Long Conversation events held at the Arts and Industries Building on December 1. The Short Conversation, which was a discussion amongst Smithsonian leaders about the future of the Smithsonian, preceded the Long Conversation, which was an eight-hour relay of two-person dialogues between leaders of the arts and sciences about what makes them optimistic about the future. Both events were livestreamed and viewed at least in part by approximately 60,000 viewers. Lastly, the Secretary advised the Committee that he is considering recommending changes to the Smithsonian’s special events policy. The Science, Innovation, and Technology Committee and the Governance and Nominating Committee have also been briefed on the possible changes to the policy. The Secretary will incorporate feedback from the committees and Smithsonian directors and expects to present the final revised policy to the full Board in January 2018.

REVIEW OF THE AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY BOARD MEETING

Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson reviewed with the Committee the preliminary draft of the agenda for the January 2018 meeting of the Board of Regents. The January meeting agenda will likely include the following items: (1) the annual compensation review for the Secretary and senior executives, (2) a review of the Regents' annual self-assessment, (3) presentation of the strategic plan implementation plan, (4) a review of funding priorities for the Smithsonian's capital projects, and (5) an update to the Smithsonian's special events policy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee moved into an executive session at approximately 3:19 p.m to discuss compensation matters.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David M. Rubenstein, Chair