

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2017, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a teleconference meeting on February 14, 2017.

Participating were Board and Executive Committee Chair David Rubenstein; Vice Chair Steve Case; and Member Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Regent Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson; Secretary Skorton; Counselor to the Chief Justice Jeffrey P. Minear; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Office of the Regents Senior Researcher & Writer Jennifer Ehlinger (recorder); General Counsel Judith Leonard; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rubenstein called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed Mr. Case and Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey as new members of the Committee.

Mr. Rubenstein thanked Regent and Strategic Planning Committee Co-chair Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson for participating in the meeting and invited her to deliver an update on the strategic planning process and development of the Smithsonian’s new strategic plan

UPDATE ON THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

In September 2016, the Secretary established a Strategic Planning Committee (“Planning Committee”), charged with developing and drafting a new strategic plan for the Smithsonian for 2017 – 2022. The 15-member Committee is Co-Chaired by Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson and Sant Director of the National Museum of Natural History Dr. Kirk Johnson and is made up of Regents and staff, who have deep ties to the Smithsonian’s museums, education, and research. In drafting the new plan, the Planning Committee worked to engage a broad section of the Smithsonian community in order to solicit input from staff, volunteers, and other stakeholders from across the Institution regarding the strategic direction for the Smithsonian for the next five years.

Dr. Jackson outlined the Planning Committee’s progress and reviewed the proposed timeline for drafting and socializing the new plan. In the coming weeks, the Planning Committee will be working with Secretary Skorton to draft and refine the new plan. The draft plan will be shared with the Regents and Smithsonian leadership in order to incorporate any feedback, before a final draft is proposed to the full Board of Regents. Dr. Jackson and the Planning Committee are hopeful that the final draft will be ready for the full Board’s review at the Regents’ annual strategic meeting, scheduled on April 3, 2017.

Mr. Rubenstein and Executive Committee members noted the aggressive goal for approval of the new plan and thanked Dr. Jackson and the entire Planning Committee for their dedicated efforts.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the draft minutes of the January 12, 2017, morning and afternoon meetings without modification.

UPDATE ON APRIL STRATEGIC MEETING AND REVIEW OF AGENDA

Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson briefed the Committee on plans for the Regents' upcoming strategic meeting to be held on April 3, 2017. The Board's first Strategic Meeting was held in April 2016, and took place at the National Museum of American History. In October, the Board agreed to hold its second annual strategic meeting off-site, at the Microsoft Innovation and Policy Center in D.C., which has the necessary space and infrastructure to support the meeting logistics.

Several innovative companies have been invited to participate in the event and demonstrate their technological devices. Company representatives and Smithsonian leadership will participate in discussions on how technology can enhance the visitor experience, amplify storytelling around exhibits, and increase access to museum research and collections. The primary purpose of the meeting is to give Regents and Smithsonian leadership an opportunity to test a variety of emerging technologies and discover how they could relate to museums.

Following the morning technology demonstrations and discussions, the Regents will convene their business meeting. The majority of the Regents afternoon meeting will be devoted to the presentation and consideration of the new strategic plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then entered into an executive session at approximately 4:22 p.m. to receive updates on personnel matters related to the staffing of and searches for several senior positions at the Smithsonian.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David M. Rubenstein
Chair