

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2018, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a teleconference meeting on February 14, 2018. Participating were Board and Executive Committee Chair David Rubenstein and Committee member Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary David 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, Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola, General Counsel Judith Leonard, and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

David Rubenstein called the meeting to order at 1:59 p.m. and welcomed members and staff participating by telephone.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the draft minutes of the January 18, 2018, Committee meeting without modification.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

The Secretary briefed the Committee on the state of the Smithsonian and reported on relevant activities and initiatives.

On February 12, the National Portrait Gallery unveiled the official portraits of the 44th President, Barack Obama, and First Lady Michelle Obama by artists Kehinde Wiley and Amy Sherald. The unveiling received a tremendous amount of positive press coverage. President Obama's portrait is on view in the America's Presidents exhibition. Michelle Obama's portrait is on public display in the Recent Acquisitions exhibition.

The National Museum of American History held a ceremony honoring the donation of objects by Regent and U.S. Representative Sam Johnson to the museum’s Armed Forces History Collection. The items, a tube of toothpaste and a tin cup from the Hỏa Lò Prison, are the first items in the museum’s collection to be donated by a POW that used them. Secretary Skorton, Director of NMAH John Gray, Chair and Curator of Armed Forces History Jennifer Jones, and Representative Sam Johnson gave remarks at the donation ceremony.

Secretary Skorton briefed the Committee on two events at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. On February 14, 2018, the Hirshhorn opened a major temporary exhibition, *Brand New: Art and Commodity in the 1980s*. Included was a site-specific work by Krzysztof Wodiczko's originally commissioned by the Hirshhorn to be projected on its building in 1988. The first restaging of the work took place after sunset on February 13, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. The work's imagery and the public nature of its large-scale projection received thoughtful media attention following the display. The Secretary also announced the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Hiroshi Sugimoto lobby. The new space features a reconfigured entrance, Sugimoto-designed art objects as furnishings, a dramatic 20-foot metal coffee bar, and a new installation of prismatic light.

The Secretary updated the Committee on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with Aramco Affiliated Services Company, a U.S. subsidiary of Saudi Aramco on behalf of the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture and other entities within Saudi Arabia. The proposed MOU would establish a nonbinding umbrella agreement between the Smithsonian and Aramco Affiliated Services Company to explore cultural, scientific, and educational exhibitions and research projects of mutual interest. The MOU requires separate written agreements for each specific initiative or project that requires the commitment of funds or resources or if the commitment is intended to be binding. The Secretary will update the Board of Regents on the status of the collaboration during the Board meeting in April.

Lastly, Secretary Skorton shared news that President Trump recommended an additional \$381 million in fiscal year 2018 federal funding for the National Air and Space Museum revitalization as part of the fiscal year 2018 omnibus spending bill. Currently, the Smithsonian is being funded by a continuing resolution at the fiscal year 2017 enacted funding level. The Secretary will update the Committee on the status of capital facilities funding during the Committee meeting in March.

UPDATE ON APRIL STRATEGIC MEETING

Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson provided the Committee with an update on plans for the Regents' strategic meeting to be held on April 9, 2018. Ms. Wilkinson highlighted the meeting theme: Focus on Science. The meeting, which is scheduled to take place at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, will be the third annual strategic meeting of the Board. The meeting will follow a series of Campaign celebration activities scheduled for April 7 and 8. As more details are available regarding this meeting, the Committee will be updated.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee entered into an executive session at approximately 2:04 p.m. to receive a litigation update from General Counsel Judith Leonard and to discuss personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David M. Rubenstein, Chair