

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2019, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a teleconference meeting on February 14, 2019. 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 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, and General Counsel Judith Leonard.

CALL TO ORDER

David Rubenstein called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.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 17, 2019, Committee meeting without modification.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

The Secretary briefed the Committee on publicity regarding a growing list of universities, museums, and nonprofits that are reviewing their philanthropic policies and relationships with donors in light of lawsuits related to the national opioid crisis.

Secretary Skorton updated the Committee on an all directors meeting hosted earlier in the month to address, among other topics, the transition of leadership following his departure from the Smithsonian in June 2019. Smithsonian leadership discussed the implementation of the strategic plan, facilities operations, and human resources practices related to recruitment and hiring as priorities for the Institution.

The Secretary also updated the Committee on the Institution’s current engagements with Saudi Aramco, specifically the *Movement of Life* conservation program, which seeks to advance the understanding of how all living things move across changing land and seascapes to better sustain a biodiverse planet. In light of recent developments in Saudi Arabia, Secretary Skorton informed the Committee that no new collaborations would be initiated with Saudi Arabia or Aramco at this time.

The Committee was briefed on the departure of the Office of Government Relations Director Cheryl Johnson, who was appointed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi as the new Clerk of the House of

Representatives. On January 3, 2018, Ms. Johnson was affirmed to be the 35th person to hold the office of the Clerk. Her last day at the Smithsonian will be February 20.

Secretary Skorton updated the Committee on a large public event to celebrate the American Women's History Initiative on March 28. The Secretary reviewed progress on the Initiative, including the status of fundraising, communications plans, and the creation of a National Advisory Committee, which will provide input on programs and events, fundraising strategy, and advocacy and outreach to key constituencies.

To conclude his report, the Secretary provided the Committee with an overview of initial plans to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Smithsonian in 2021. The fiscal year 2019 fundraising goal for the project is \$5 million.

The Secretary also reminded the Committee that by statute, he serves on the United States Semiquincentennial Commission in an ex officio capacity. The Commission will coordinate celebrations across the country to commemorate the 250th anniversary of American Independence in 2026. Provost/Under Secretary for Museums, Education, and Research John Davis has agreed to represent the Secretary on the Commission until the 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian is selected. Dr. Davis will guide the Smithsonian's potential involvement in the celebrations through use of collections, programs, and affiliates.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David M. Rubenstein, Chair