

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2021, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on April 1, 2021.

Participating were Chancellor John G. Roberts, Jr.; Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case; and Committee member John Fahey.

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, Under Secretary for Administration Mike McCarthy, 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 of two action items and an overview of the April 12, 2021, meeting of the Board of Regents.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the draft minutes of the March 9, 2021, meeting without modification.

SAO CAMBRIDGE, MA DISCOVERY PARK LEASE RENEWAL

The Committee was asked to consider a request for authority to execute a new five-year lease extension for a portion of the existing leased premises consisting of approximately 58,888 square feet of administrative office, laboratory, and support space for continued occupancy by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (“SAO”) at 100 Discovery Park in Cambridge, MA. The approval would result in a cost avoidance of approximately \$12 million over the five-year period, plus an annual savings of approximately \$1.5 million. Because the motion required approval prior to the next scheduled Facilities Committee meeting, the Executive Committee was asked to approve the lease renewal on behalf of the Facilities Committee, for recommendation to the Board of Regents at the April 12, 2021, meeting.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following motion was approved:

VOTED that the Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Regents approves the Secretary’s request to execute a lease amendment for a new 5-year lease extension for a portion of the existing leased premises consisting of approximately 58,888 square feet of administrative office, laboratory, and support space for continued occupancy by

the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (“SAO”) at 100 Discovery Park Cambridge, MA.

OVERVIEW OF THE APRIL 12, 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 will introduce any newly appointed Congressional Regents and Smithsonian liaisons, recognize the final Board meeting for outgoing Regent David M. Rubenstein, and acknowledge Smithsonian staff transitions including the departure of Under Secretary for Administration Mike McCarthy and the appointment of Ellen Stofan as Under Secretary for Science and Research. Mr. Case also will present one motion for the Board’s consideration to recognize a former Citizen Regent.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Next, the Regents will be asked to approve the Consent Agenda (“Agenda”). Action items on the Agenda will include approval of the February Board meeting minutes, appointments and reappointments to Smithsonian advisory boards, 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, Investment Committee, Office of Government Relations, and Smithsonian National Board.

Report of the Facilities Committee: Committee Chair John Fahey will deliver the report of the Facilities Committee. The Board will be asked to consider the proposed lease renewal for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Cambridge, MA Discovery Park location.

Report of the Governance and Nominating Committee: Committee Chair Doris Matsui will lead the Board’s review of proposed amendments to the Audit and Review Committee Charter.

The Secretary’s Vision, Retrospective, and Achievements to Date: Secretary Lonnie Bunch will update the Board on his vision for the Smithsonian’s future, highlight his achievements, and provide a retrospective after nearly two years of service as the Secretary of the Smithsonian.

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 Secretary will discuss the Smithsonian’s COVID-19 vaccine deployment, the Institution’s reopening plans, and public outreach related to the pandemic.

Strategic Discussion on New Smithsonian Museums: Secretary Bunch also will lead a strategic discussion on the two new museums: the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum. The Regents’ discussion will focus on

advisory board candidates, site selection for each museum, and establishing an initial virtual presence for both museums.

Strategic Discussion on Virtual Smithsonian and Digital Initiatives: The Board will then move on to a strategic discussion focused on the Virtual Smithsonian and Digital Initiatives. One of the examples to be highlighted for the Regents will be a searchable museum project at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Strategic Discussion on One Smithsonian: To conclude the open session of the meeting, the Secretary will update the Board on the *Our Shared Future* Initiative and other pan-institutional efforts that are advancing the One Smithsonian strategic priority.

Executive Session with the Secretary: The Board will then continue in an executive session with the Secretary to discuss the status of ongoing personnel searches at the Smithsonian.

Executive Session: The Board will then continue its deliberations in a Regents-only executive session. It will be asked to consider the proposed 2021 Regent committee assignments for newly appointed Congressional Regents.

Gatekeepers' Session: The Board will conclude the April meeting with 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.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, and no request for an executive session, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Case, Chair