

MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2018, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a teleconference meeting on May 1, 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, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester, Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder), General Counsel Judith Leonard, and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

David Rubenstein called the meeting to order at 2:01 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 February 14, 2018, and March 22, 2018, Committee meetings without modification.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

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

On May 1, the Smithsonian Community Committee hosted the third annual Smithsonian staff picnic for New York staff at the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum. The Secretary shared highlights of the event including musical entertainment, conversations with Smithsonian leadership, garden games, gallery tours, and a SHAPE walk. The Smithsonian Community Committee will also host an annual staff picnic on July 2, for Smithsonian staff, fellows, interns, contractors, and volunteers on the National Mall.

Secretary Skorton updated the Committee on the strategy of post-Campaign advancement activities for the Office of Advancement under new Assistant Secretary for Advancement Robert Spiller. Two subcommittees were formed to develop formal strategy and implementation plans. The Secretary shared that preliminary recommendations would be provided to the Board at its June meeting, with a full report expected to be presented to the Regents in October 2018.

Next, the Secretary discussed the status of the Institution's long-range financial planning, which will include a strategic facilities capital plan that will enable the Institution to fulfill its mission and sustain facilities capital and maintenance investment needs. The Secretary informed the Committee that he will present initial recommendations to the Board of Regents at the Board meeting in June.

The Secretary briefed the Committee on the "Stop the Opioid Epidemic" demonstration at the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of Art on April 26. The protest was organized by the advocacy group Prescription Addiction Intervention Now ("P.A.I.N."), and led by photographer Nan Goldin. Smithsonian security staff and gallery guards kept watch over the demonstration to ensure public safety and the safekeeping of the Institution's collection. This action was the second major protest by P.A.I.N. regarding the group's belief in the Sackler family's involvement in the national opioid crisis, following a protest at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Secretary acknowledged that Dr. Arthur M. Sackler's gift to the Smithsonian in 1982, the gallery's opening in 1987, and Dr. Sackler's death in 1987 occurred before the opioid OxyContin was invented. He informed the Committee that these facts also were acknowledged by the activists, with specific demands being made of the Sackler family, and not the Smithsonian.

Secretary Skorton shared an overview of the upcoming Smithsonian leadership retreat, which is intended to foster increased collaboration between individual units and the central administration in support of the Smithsonian's pan-Institutional strategic plan. He will brief the Board in June after the retreat.

Lastly, the Secretary Skorton announced the upcoming unveiling of the official portraits of Lawrence M. Small, the eleventh Secretary of the Smithsonian, and G. Wayne Clough, the twelfth Secretary of the Smithsonian. The portraits will go on display in the Smithsonian Institution Building, popularly known as the "Castle."

ADJOURNMENT

There was no request for an executive session, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David M. Rubenstein, Chair