

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2020, STRATEGY, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) held a videoconference meeting on December 14, 2020. Participating were Committee Chair Michael Lynton and Committee members Steve Case, Michael Govan, Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, and Michael Crow.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Lonnie Bunch; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Acting Under Secretary for Science and Research Roger Brissenden; Chief Information Officer Deron Burba; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester; Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder); Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Ginny Gomez; Acting Under Secretary for Museums and Culture Kevin Gover; Deputy General Counsel Lauryn Guttenplan; Inspector General Cathy Helm; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer Julissa Marengo; Under Secretary for Administration Mike McCarthy; Acting Under Secretary for Education Ruki Neuhold-Ravikumar; Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park; Director of the Office of Government Relations Vernon Simms; Assistant Secretary for Advancement Rob Spiller; Liaison to Representative Doris Matsui, Kyle Victor; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Michael Lynton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and reviewed the agenda. He welcomed Michael Crow, President of Arizona State University, to his first Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee meeting. Mr. Lynton also recognized the final Committee meeting for Rod Adkins and Greg McAdoo, and thanked them both for their service to the Committee, the Board, and the Smithsonian.

REVIEW OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2020, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the September 24, 2020, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

COMMITTEE CHARTER REVIEW

The Committee performed a provision-by-provision review of its Charter per its mandate to annually review and assess the Charter and evaluate its performance. One amendment was proposed: to increase Regent membership by one (1) for a total of seven (7) Regent members.

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

VOTED that the Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee recommends approval by the Governance and Nominating Committee of the proposed amendment to the Strategy, Innovation, and Technology Committee Charter.

ENGAGING THE NATION

Secretary Bunch then led a strategic discussion on engaging the nation through catalyzing new conversations and addressing complex challenges. The Secretary briefed the Committee on the Smithsonian's efforts to broaden its reach, relevance, and impact by working with all sectors of society in scholarly and thoughtful ways. The Committee discussed strengthening the Institution's relationship with Congress, confronting race and its impact on communities, and developing vaccine public-education programming. The Secretary noted that the Institution is committed to creating strategic collaborations and leading productive and informative dialogues that challenge the nation to live up to its founding ideals. The Committee agreed that the Smithsonian is particularly suited to address complicated issues due to its varied expertise spanning science, history, art, and culture.

NEW NORMAL

Next, the Secretary updated the Committee on the work of the New Normal Committee. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, much of the Smithsonian's focus was on exhibiting, conserving, and providing access to collections and producing world-class research. As the Smithsonian moves toward a new phase of operations and continues to plan its New Normal, the New Normal Committee has been investigating all aspects of how to best position the Smithsonian to excel and lead in both a pre- and post-COVID vaccine world.

The Secretary reviewed initial recommendations from the New Normal Committee, which include investing in human capital, focusing on audience and digital transformation, positioning education at the core of the Smithsonian's mission, and pursuing signature initiatives and big ideas. The Smithsonian is moving forward on the recommendations related to increasing audience-centered, data-driven decision making and considering ways it will improve the financial resiliency of the organization. The Committee discussed both opportunities and challenges that the Institution may face as it begins to implement the New Normal recommendations, as part of the larger strategic focus areas, in particular those that focus in part on expanding, strengthening, and integrating efforts around membership, E-commerce, and social media.

EXHIBITION CALENDAR AND PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Acting Under Secretary for Museums and Culture Kevin Gover reviewed the exhibition calendar, including the impact on existing exhibitions and updates on planned exhibition openings, following the decision to reclose all Smithsonian museums, including the National Zoo, to the public on November 23.

The Committee was also briefed on the SD603 review of two exhibitions. The SD603 review process is the Smithsonian's internal review process for exhibitions, which is designed to identify any potentially sensitive and/or controversial exhibitions and to allow for thoughtful planning and discussion. Mr. Gover reviewed the SD603 findings for *The Bias Inside Us*, a four-year project developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service to encourage civil dialogue on important issues facing our nation and the world, and *iPrinting the Revolution! The Rise and Impact of Chicano Graphics, 1965 to Now*, an exhibition at the Smithsonian American Art Museum that explores the rise of Chicano graphics and history of printmaking within early social movements.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee entered into an executive session at approximately 11:17 a.m. to discuss confidential business matters.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Michael M. Lynton, Chair