

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2019, 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 meeting on February 25, 2019. Participating were Committee Chair Michael Lynton* and Committee members Representative Doris Matsui,* Rod Adkins,* Steve Case,* Michael Govan,* Dr. Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey,* Bob MacDonald,* and Greg McAdoo.*

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Skorton;* Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Chief Information Officer Deron Burba;* Counsel to the Inspector General Epin Christensen;* Provost/Under Secretary for Museums, Education, and Research John Davis; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester; Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder); Associate General Counsel Lauryn Guttenplan; Senior Program Officer for Digital Strategy Effie Kapsalis;* Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs Julissa Marengo; Executive Officer for the Office of the Provost Amy Marino; and Acting Under Secretary for Finance and Administration/Chief Operating Officer Mike McCarthy.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Michael Lynton called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2018, COMMITTEE MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the December 3, 2018, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

OPEN ACCESS DISCUSSION

Provost John Davis led a strategic discussion on implementing an Open Access strategy at the Smithsonian to make data and content freely available and accessible to the public to use, modify, and share for any purpose, including commercial use, with no further permission required. The Smithsonian’s contribution to the Open Access landscape would be a significant development, particularly among natural history museums. Broadening access would also provide a foundation for the implementation of the Smithsonian Strategic Plan, notably goal three (*reach one billion people a year with a digital-first strategy*), goal four (*understand and impact 21st century audiences*), and goal six (*preserve natural and cultural heritage while optimizing our assets*).

Dr. Davis briefed the Committee on the draft implementation plan and timeline, and emphasized that making this mission-driven initiative feasible would require infrastructure and resources, for public announcement in 2019. Senior Program Officer for Digital Strategy Effie

*Participated by telephone

Kapsalis and Associate General Counsel Lauryn Guttenplan were recognized for their contributions to the Open Access Advisory Team supporting the advancement of an Open access policy and plan.

Beyond the Smithsonian, 179 worldwide galleries, libraries, archives, and museums have adopted Open Access policies. Dr. Davis highlighted several cultural institutions that have adopted an Open Access policy, both domestically and abroad, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, National Gallery of Art, the National Archives, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Committee member Michael Govan cited the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's ("LACMA") adoption of an Open Access policy and 2013 launch of a collections website that dramatically increased accessibility to the museum's holdings. Dr. Davis also noted that the Cleveland Museum of Art ("CMA") introduced an Open Access program in January, which made as many as 30,000 images of public-domain artworks in CMA's collection available publicly. The Committee discussed the potential benefits and challenges of implementing a policy of Open Access, and endorsed the Smithsonian's commitment to sharing the Institution's collections and other resources broadly with the public.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST AND EXHIBITION CALENDAR

Provost John Davis provided the Committee with two personnel updates. First, Dr. Davis reported on the executive search for a new director of the Anacostia Museum, which was delayed due to the government shutdown. Second, Dr. Anthea Hartig began her tenure at the Smithsonian as the Elizabeth MacMillan Director of the National Museum of American History on February 18. Dr. Davis shared that new directors will participate in a two-day orientation curriculum covering all of the major offices at the Smithsonian, and be paired with an experienced Smithsonian director mentor.

The Committee was updated on the March 28 event planned in celebration of the opening of the *Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence* exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery as part of the American Women's History Initiative. Dr. Davis noted that the event will also be the first event since the announcement of the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative National Advisory Committee.

The Committee reviewed the calendar of upcoming exhibits, with a focus on exhibitions that might generate greater than normal stakeholder interest. Dr. Davis mentioned that six exhibitions were impacted and subsequently delayed due to the government shutdown. Dr. Davis then highlighted four exhibitions set to open before the next Committee meeting: (i) *Forgotten Workers, Hidden Lives: Chinese Immigrant Labor and the Transcontinental Railroad* opening at the National Museum of American History in April; (ii) *Whistler in Watercolor* and *The Peacock Room in Blue and White* both opening at the Freer|Sackler in May; and (iii) *The David H. Koch Hall of Fossils—Deep Time* opening at the National Museum of Natural History in June.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Secretary David Skorton asked Acting Under Secretary for Finance and Administration/Chief Operating Officer Mike McCarthy to brief the Committee on the fiscal year 2019 budget, which was enacted on February 15, 2019. The fiscal year 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act provides a total of \$1,043.5 million for the Smithsonian. Mr. McCarthy noted that the federal appropriations included \$210 million in capital funding for the National Air and Space Museum revitalization and \$2 million annual for the American Women’s History Initiative.

Mr. McCarthy was also asked to update the Committee on the SNI/SI Network LLC (“Channel”), a joint venture established in 2006 with Showtime Networks Inc. (“Showtime”). In 2011, the Smithsonian purchased additional equity interest in the Channel. The joint venture agreement provided that the Smithsonian could sell back (“put”) to its partner a portion, or all, of its ownership interest in 2014, 2016, or 2018.

The Secretary discussed the recent developments in Saudi Arabia and the response by cultural institutions worldwide. The Smithsonian researchers work in more than 140 countries around the world, including Saudi Arabia. While the Smithsonian remains committed to fostering dialogues and meaningful relationships with countries around the world, at this time, no new collaborations will be pursued with Saudi Arabia.

The Secretary concluded his report with an update on the recent publicity involving universities, museums, and nonprofits and their relationships with donors in light of lawsuits related to the national opioid crisis.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, and no executive session requested, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Michael M. Lynton, Chair