

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2018, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a teleconference meeting on November 15, 2018. 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, Associate General Counsel Farleigh Earhart, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester, Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder), and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

David Rubenstein called the meeting to order at 3:31 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 October 11, 2018, Committee meeting without modification.

APPROVAL OF GIFT TO NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

The Committee reviewed one gift to the National Air and Space Museum (“NASM”) requiring approval by the Executive Committee on behalf of the full Board. The Committee was asked to approve the gift on behalf of the full Board to accommodate the timing of the public announcement, before the full Board will meet. Mr. Rubenstein noted that the gift adheres to Smithsonian gift policies.

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

VOTED that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, recognizes the generosity of The Boeing Company and accepts the terms of the sponsorship agreement.

SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN WOMEN’S HISTORY INITIATIVE

The Secretary updated the Committee on the pan-Institutional initiative to document, research, collect, display, and share the stories of women in America. At an event on November 13, 2018, the Smithsonian publicly announced specific plans for the Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative, *Because of Her Story*. Federal and private funders were recognized

at the event, including a partnership with the Case Foundation for the Initiative's digital strategy. The Secretary acknowledged the participation of Regents Barbara Barrett and Representative Doris Matsui, and informed the Committee that a gala is being planned to celebrate the opening of one of the Initiative's major exhibitions *Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence* in February 2019.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In July 2016, Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed into law legislation establishing the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, which is charged with collecting ideas and making recommendations to Congress for celebrations across the country to commemorate the 250th anniversary of American Independence. The Secretary was selected to serve on the Commission in an ex officio capacity, and discussed the Smithsonian's potential involvement in the celebrations, specifically the development and display of exhibits, collections, and materials relevant to the period predating the United States Semiquincentennial.

The Secretary briefed the Committee on updates to the Smithsonian's special events policy, which currently provides for treating certain outside events as "co-sponsored" donor celebrations. Secretary Skorton and his team analyzed potential modifications to the policy to reduce reputational risks and restrictions on museums. The Committee discussed the proposed modifications to the new policy that have been made based on director input, and the Office of the General Counsel reported that guidance will be issued. The Secretary will share the final revised policy with the Board at its January 2019 meeting.

Secretary Skorton also updated the Committee on the Smithsonian's collaboration with Saudi Aramco. In October, the Freer-Sackler Galleries of Art hosted the Arab Culture Weekend, a two-day celebration of Arab culture through music, food, film, and art. Secretary Skorton shared that the Smithsonian is assessing its current and future collaborations with Saudi Aramco, following recent developments in Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee moved into an executive session at approximately 3:51 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David M. Rubenstein, Chair