

## MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2023, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on February 14, 2023. Participating were Board and Executive Committee Chair Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey and Committee member Barbara M. Barrett.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Lonnie Bunch; Counselor to the Chief Justice Robert M. Dow, Jr.; 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); General Counsel Judith Leonard; Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

### CALL TO ORDER

Board and Executive Committee Chair Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the January 19, 2023, Committee meeting were approved.

### CONGRESSIONAL REGENT COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey presented the proposed 2023 committee assignments for two newly appointed Congressional Regents: Representative Garret Graves and Senator Gary Peters. By tradition, Citizen Regents typically serve on three Regent committees and chair at least one committee, and Congressional Regents are assigned to two committees. Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey noted that Representative Graves and Senator Peters would serve in their roles until January 2024. The Executive Committee was asked to approve the proposed committee assignments on behalf of the Board of Regents to allow for participation in upcoming Regent committee meetings.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Executive Committee voted to approve the proposed committee assignments and recommended that the Chancellor make the necessary appointments.

**VOTED** that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, approves the 2023 proposed committee member assignments for Senator Gary Peters and Representative Garret Graves, and requests that the Chancellor make the necessary appointments.

## **APRIL BOARD MEETING**

Next, Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey led a discussion on the Regents' strategic meeting to be held on April 3, 2023. The Committee agreed that the morning tour will focus on collections storage and space planning at the Institution. The afternoon meeting will be devoted to strategic discussions focused on the Smithsonian as a national institution.

## **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

The Secretary then provided an update on the state of the Smithsonian. The Secretary first briefed the Committee on an incident that took place in January at the National Air and Space Museum involving a group of students participating in a Right to Life March. The Smithsonian is continuing to investigate the incident and will report back to the Board.

Next, Secretary Bunch updated the Committee on the closure of the Smithsonian Institution Building, known as the "Castle." The building closed to the public on February 1 for its first major renovation in more than 50 years. Smithsonian staff with offices in the Castle are being relocated to the Smithsonian-owned consolidated administrative headquarters facility in the Capital Gallery Building. The Secretary informed the Committee that while the Castle is closed, the Smithsonian will continue to serve in-person and virtual visitors through the Visitor Center, which will expand its online services while exploring other in-person visitor services opportunities. The Institution is planning to reopen a portion of the building to visitors as part of the celebrations surrounding the 250th anniversary of America's independence in 2026.

To conclude, the Secretary led a discussion with the Committee on engagement with Congressional Regents and other Members of Congress. The Committee discussed forging new relationships with the 118th United States Congress, specifically congressional committees and caucuses that have shared interests with the Smithsonian.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Committee moved into an executive session at approximately 4:38 p.m. to discuss confidential business matters.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, Chair