

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 30, 2024, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on April 30, 2024. Participating were Board and Executive Committee Chair Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, Vice Chair Barbara M. Barrett, and Committee member Franklin Raines.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Counselor to the Chief Justice Robert M. Dow, Jr.; 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); Chief Legal Officer Jennifer McIntyre; Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park; and Counselor 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 11:00 a.m. and reviewed the agenda.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the March 21, 2024, Committee meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE CHARTER REVIEW

The Committee reviewed its Charter per its mandate to annually review and assess the Charter and evaluate the Committee’s performance with respect to the requirements of the Charter. No modifications to the Charter were proposed.

JUNE BOARD MEETING

Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey provided a brief recap of the April 8, 2024, meeting of the Board of Regents. She acknowledged the success of the Regents’ first hybrid meeting, as some members of the Board joined in person from Johnson City, Texas, while others joined virtually. Those members who attended in person participated in a Smithsonian Journeys trip along with the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Advisory Board. The educational trip focused on the total solar eclipse and provided several programs featuring Smithsonian scientists. Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey also informed the Committee that the Office of the Regents is exploring opportunities for the Regents to travel to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama.

Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey also led a discussion on the upcoming meeting of the Board of Regents to be held on June 10, 2024. The Board will discuss key matters at the Smithsonian, including the status of the Giant Panda program at the National Zoo, the Smithsonian budget and related revenue generating activities, and the Institution’s role in the America250 events.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy delivered the report of the Secretary on behalf of Secretary Bunch. Mr. Bettwy reported on the Secretary's recent trip to Ireland to meet with Irish cultural leaders and university representatives. Several of the meetings focused on how museums and cultural institutions worldwide are addressing repatriation, human remains (both ancient and modern), and controversial contemporary topics.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, Chair