

MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2023, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a meeting on July 13, 2023. Participating were Vice Chair John Fahey and Committee member Barbara M. Barrett. Board and Executive Committee Chair Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey was unable to attend. In accordance with the Committee Charter, Vice Chair John Fahey acted in Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey’s stead.

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; Acting General Counsel Farleigh Earhart; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester; Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder); Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair John Fahey 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 Committee approved the draft minutes of the May 31, 2023, and June 20, 2023, meetings.

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.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The Secretary updated the Committee on the state of the Smithsonian, and briefly discussed his participation in recent principal-level donor engagements in Montana. The Secretary noted that philanthropic support has been critical to the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and American Prairie Reserve’s collaboration to protect and restore one of North America’s greatest treasures: the prairie. The Committee discussed the reintroduction of species that have disappeared from the landscape, such as the swift fox and black-footed ferret, and the impact the collaboration has had on advancing Smithsonian science and education programs.

The Secretary concluded his report by updating the Committee on recent personnel matters. On July 5, the Smithsonian announced that Nancy Yao has withdrawn from the position of Founding Director of the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum (“SAWHM”) due to family issues that require her attention. The Secretary informed the Committee that the Smithsonian will begin a new search for a director immediately. In the meantime, Dr. Melanie Adams, the Roger Ferguson and Annette Nazareth

Director of the Anacostia Community Museum (“ACM”), will serve as Interim Director of SAWHM. Lisa Sasaki, the current Interim Director, will move to a new leadership role, as she was recently appointed the Deputy Under Secretary for Special Projects in the Office of the Under Secretary for Museums and Culture.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee moved into an executive session at approximately 11:18 a.m. to discuss confidential business matters.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Fahey, Vice Chair