

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2025, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on February 26, 2025. Participating were Board and Executive Committee Chair Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, Vice Chair Franklin Raines, and Committee member Denise O’Leary.

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 1:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda. She also welcomed Denise O’Leary to her first Executive Committee meeting.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the January 16 and January 30, 2025, Committee meetings were approved.

APRIL BOARD MEETING

Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey then led a brief discussion on the upcoming meeting of the Board of Regents to be held on April 7, 2025. The Regents’ strategic meeting in April will offer a deep dive into Smithsonian science and research and explore what sets the Smithsonian’s work apart from other government agencies and science and research organizations across the globe. Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey noted that the morning session would include a tour of the Smithsonian’s Feather Identification Lab and the afternoon session will be devoted to a condensed business meeting.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park delivered the report of the Secretary on behalf of Secretary Bunch. The Deputy Secretary provided an update on the state of the Smithsonian, specifically federal funding.

The Smithsonian is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution (“CR”), which extends federal funding at fiscal year 2024 spending levels through March 14, 2025. The Smithsonian is complying with the current restrictions on spending and obligating appropriated funds. The Deputy Secretary informed the Committee that Smithsonian leadership is closely monitoring the progress to pass a full-year FY 2025 appropriation and has begun planning in the event of a lapse in federal appropriations,

including updating past shutdown plans as appropriate and reviewing existing carryover funds. The Committee discussed the timing of a potential shutdown and the impact on public operations during spring break travel, which is a heightened visitor period for the Smithsonian.

Deputy Secretary Park also reminded the Committee that the Institution is in close consultation with Congressional appropriators and the Office of Management and Budget regarding the fiscal year 2026 federal budget. The Smithsonian is exploring strategies to mitigate the impacts of potential decreased federal funding to the Institution. Smithsonian management will keep the Committee informed as fiscal year 2026 budget discussions continue. The Committee was reminded that the Smithsonian's new Director of Government Relations will begin on March 24.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee moved into an executive session at approximately 1:23 p.m. to discuss recently issued executive orders, directives, and policies impacting the Smithsonian.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, Chair