

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2021, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on September 7, 2021. Participating were Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case, Vice Chair Dr. Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, and Committee member John Fahey.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Lonnie Bunch, 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), Interim Under Secretary for Administration Doug Hall, 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 Steve Case called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and reviewed the agenda.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the August 10, 2021, and August 25, 2021, Committee meetings were approved without modification.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 FEDERAL AND TRUST CONSOLIDATED BUDGET

Interim Under Secretary for Administration Doug Hall presented the fiscal year 2022 federal and trust consolidated budget for the Committee’s consideration. Mr. Hall noted that the Smithsonian expects to begin fiscal year 2022 operating under a Continuing Resolution (“CR”). The Committee reviewed the projected financial needs of the Institution and the potential challenges for the Smithsonian. The Smithsonian’s fiscal year 2022 federal appropriation request is \$1,102 million, which includes \$872 million for Salaries and Expenses and \$230 million for Facilities Capital. The Executive Committee was asked to approve the budget on behalf of the Board of Regents because approval was required prior to the next meeting of the Board.

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, (1) approves the budget of appropriated funds for fiscal year 2022 when signed into law by the President, and the Institutional budget totaling \$527.5 million for Trust funds for fiscal year 2022 as reflected in this report, and (2) authorizes expenditures by the Secretary in accordance therewith. Any material changes in program plans incorporated into this budget shall be made only with the approval of the Board of Regents or its Executive Committee.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 FEDERAL BUDGET REQUEST TO OMB

Mr. Hall also briefed the Committee on the fiscal year 2023 federal budget request to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”). The Smithsonian is requesting a total of \$1,217.1 million for its fiscal year 2023 federal budget, inclusive of \$942.1 million for Salaries and Expenses and \$275 million for Facilities Capital. The request includes funding for the Smithsonian’s COVID-19 new normal and facilities operations, digital support and education programming, and a first funding request for the establishment of two new Smithsonian museums. The Committee was asked to approve the fiscal year 2023 federal budget request to OMB on behalf of the full Board because it is due on September 13, 2021, prior to the Board meeting in October.

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, approves the Smithsonian Institution’s \$1,217.1 million appropriation budget request to the Office of Management and Budget for fiscal year 2023. Any material changes in program plans incorporated into this budget shall be made only with the approval of the Board of Regents or its Executive Committee.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

Mr. Case then led a discussion on the agenda and format of the upcoming meeting of the Board of Regents to be held on October 25, 2021. The Committee discussed the potential need to utilize a virtual format for the Board meeting in light of the Delta variant and increase in U.S. COVID-19 cases. A decision regarding the format will be made closer to the meeting date.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The Secretary updated the Committee on the Institution’s ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Secretary Bunch informed the Committee that the Smithsonian is simultaneously navigating the Institution’s full reopening since closing to the public in March 2020 while responding to new threats associated with the Delta variant. The Smithsonian is still assessing President Biden’s guidance, receiving information from the Office of Management and Budget, and determining how to move forward following the President’s announcement that all federal employees and onsite contractors attest their vaccination status. The Institution is also monitoring local and national vaccination and mask mandates which may impact Smithsonian museums in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and in New York City.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Case, Chair