

## MINUTES OF THE JULY 23, 2025, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on July 23, 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 Secretary Lonnie Bunch; 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.

### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the May 28, 2025, Committee meeting were approved.

### ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

The Committee reviewed the proposed slate of candidates for appointment or reappointment to 13 Smithsonian advisory boards. Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey noted that the advisory board candidates were approved by the Governance and Nominating Committee via email ballot sent on July 14, and all candidates presented have the support of the respective unit advisory board, the unit director, the relevant Under Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Advancement, and the Secretary. The Executive Committee was asked to approve the appointments and reappointments on behalf of the Board to accommodate terms that are to take effect immediately, before the next meeting of the Board of Regents, and to help mitigate delays in onboarding new advisory board members.

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 proposed slate of candidates for appointment or reappointment to 13 Smithsonian Institution Advisory Boards.

## **NMAL ADVISORY BOARD REAPPOINTMENTS**

The Committee was also asked to consider an additional three-year term appointment for three (3) members of the National Museum of the American Latino (“NMAL”) Board of Trustees (“NMAL Advisory Board”). The reappointments would be retroactive from June 2025. Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey reminded the Committee that the Board of Regents approved amendments to the NMAL bylaws at its meeting on June 9, 2025, and the recently amended bylaws allow NMAL advisory board members who demonstrate exceptional commitment to their board service to serve up to two (2) additional terms. It was noted the reappointments would not exceed the Smithsonian’s best practice guidelines for maximum service for board members. Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey also noted that the advisory board candidates were approved by the Governance and Nominating Committee via email ballot sent on July 14. The Executive Committee was asked to approve the reappointments on behalf of the Board to accommodate terms that are to take effect retroactively, and before the next Board of Regents meeting.

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, reappoints José E. Feliciano, Soledad O’Brien, and Sofía Vergara to the Advisory Board of the National Museum of the American Latino for an additional three-year term each retroactive from June 2025 through June 12, 2028.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION: REGENTS AND SECRETARY**

The Committee then moved into an executive session at approximately 1:04 p.m. to discuss confidential business matters. The Committee discussed the Smithsonian operating environment and received an update from the Secretary on the state of the Smithsonian, including The Big, Beautiful Bill, which was signed into law by President Trump on July 4 and includes an \$85 million provision to move the retired Space Shuttle Discovery from the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia, to the Space Center Houston Museum near the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION: REGENTS ONLY**

The Committee then continued its deliberations in a Regents-only executive session to discuss Board leadership.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, Chair

## EMAIL BALLOT

The Executive Committee voted to approve the following motion on behalf of the Board of Regents, according to Board Bylaw 3.01, because the Board was not in session. The motion required approval by the Executive Committee, prior to the Board meeting in October, to accommodate the timing of related public announcements. The motion was approved via email ballot completed on June 24, 2025.

**VOTED** that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, recognizes the generosity of the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation to the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute and names the Outdoor Yard 1 of the Giant Panda Habitat as the Alice B. Clark Panda Grove, for 10 years.