

## MINUTES OF THE MARCH 27, 2025, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) met on March 27, 2025, at the Supreme Court of the United States in Washington, DC. Participating were Chancellor John G. Roberts, Jr.; 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

Chancellor John G. Roberts, Jr., called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Board and Executive Committee Chair Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey outlined the agenda, which consisted primarily of an overview of the April 7, 2025, meeting of the Board of Regents.

### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the draft minutes of the February 26, 2025, meeting.

### PROPOSED AWARD OF THE JOSEPH HENRY MEDAL

The Committee was asked to consider the proposed award of the Joseph Henry Medal to Anson “Tuck” Hines, Director of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (“SERC”). Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey noted that Tuck has served as the director since 2005, and during his tenure transformed SERC into a global leader in coastal and marine science, spearheading pioneering research on climate change, biodiversity loss, and invasive species.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following action was approved for recommendation to the Board of Regents:

**VOTED** that the Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Regents presents to Anson “Tuck” Hines the Joseph Henry Medal in recognition of his manifold contributions to the Smithsonian Institution as the Director of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

## OVERVIEW OF THE APRIL 7, 2025, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

### **Regents' Dinner**

On Sunday evening, the Board of Regents and the Secretary will convene for a reception and dinner at the National Postal Museum.

### **Regents' Morning Strategic Meeting**

On Monday, April 7, the Board will convene in Q?rius, The Coralyn W. Whitney Science Education Center at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. for its annual strategic meeting. The morning program will focus on the Smithsonian's role within the global scientific community.

***TED-Style Talks: From Coastal Shores to Cosmic Frontiers:*** The formal program will begin with three TED-style talks featuring the Smithsonian's leading scientists, researchers, and innovators. They will share breakthrough ideas and personal stories about their work, exploring topics ranging from ocean conservation and climate resilience to renewable technologies and space exploration. The TED-style talks will feature: (1) Steve Canty, Research Ecologist at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center; (2) Jared Stabach, Research Ecologist at the National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute; and (3) Cari Corrigan, Research Geologist at the National Museum of Natural History.

***Panel Discussion: How Technology and AI Push the Boundaries of Science:*** Following the TED-style talks, Under Secretary for Science and Research Ellen Stofan will host a panel discussion with the three scientists. The discussion will examine how emerging tools are transforming research and discovery. Panelists will also explore AI's role in accelerating data analysis, modeling complex systems, and driving innovation across disciplines.

***Tour of the Feather Identification Lab:*** The Regents will then have an opportunity to tour the Feather Identification Lab at the National Museum of Natural History, a highly specialized lab that studies avian collisions with aircraft. The lab processes more than 10,000 civil and military wildlife airstrike cases annually and is the only full-time bird-strike identification lab in the world.

***Regents' Luncheon Program: AstroAI:*** During lunch, the Board will hear from Dr. Cecilia Garraffo, the founding director of the AstroAI and EarthAI Institutes at the Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian. Dr. Garraffo will lead a discussion on AstroAI, a center launched in 2023 by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory dedicated to the development of artificial intelligence to enable next generation of astrophysics.

### **Regents' Afternoon Business Meeting**

***Report of the Chair and Executive Committee:*** Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey will deliver the report of the Chair and Executive Committee. She will welcome new Regents, Smithsonian Liaisons, and Smithsonian senior leadership to their first in-person meeting. She also will present the proposed award of the Joseph Henry Medal for the Board's consideration.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** Next, the Regents will be asked to approve the Consent Agenda (“Agenda”). Action items on the Agenda will include approval of the January Board meeting minutes and appointments and reappointments to Smithsonian Institution advisory boards.

**Questions on Written Committee Reports:** The Regents will then have an opportunity to ask questions regarding the written reports submitted by the Facilities Committee, Governance and Nominating Committee, Investment Committee, Smithsonian National Board, and Office of Government Relations.

**Strategic Discussion on the Smithsonian Budget:** Next, the Board will be briefed on the Smithsonian’s overall financial position as well as the status of the Institution’s federal appropriation and the contingency plans being developed to help offset the potential sustained reductions in federal funding.

**Report of the Secretary:** To conclude the open session of the meeting, the Secretary will update the Board on the state of the Smithsonian. The update will focus on efforts related to the Institution’s human remains policy, a potential Arabian leopard conservation project, and the Smithsonian’s return to office.

**Executive Session with the Secretary:** The Board will then move into an executive session with the Secretary to discuss various executive orders impacting the Institution and the progress of searches for vacant senior-level positions.

**Executive Session:** The Board will continue its deliberations in a Regents-only executive session to discuss the new Regent search.

**Gatekeepers’ Session:** The Board will conclude the April meeting with an opportunity to hear from the “gatekeepers” of the Institution.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to consider the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, Chair