

# Summary Proceedings of the Board of Regents

January 30, 2006

## DESIGNATION OF MANUEL L. IBÁÑEZ AS REGENT EMERITUS

Mr. Sant opened the afternoon meeting of the Board of Regents by recognizing the enormous contributions of citizen Regent Dr. Manuel L. Ibáñez, who will conclude his second and final term on the Board of Regents in May 2006. The Board then approved the following motion:

*VOTED that the Board of Regents confers the title of Regent Emeritus on Manuel L. Ibáñez, effective May 4, 2006, with heartfelt gratitude for the outstanding service he has provided to the Smithsonian Institution.*

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Regents' Executive Committee met on January 19, 2006, and approved the agenda proposed for the January 30, 2006, meeting of the Board of Regents.

## REPORT OF THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL BOARD

The Smithsonian National Board (SNB) held its 2005 Fall Meeting and Alumni Reunion on October 20–22 in Washington, D.C., and reconvened in Washington on January 26–28, 2006, for its Mid-Winter Meeting. On the recommendation of SNB Chair Patricia Frost, and in recognition of the generosity of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, the SNB Board recommended to the Board of Regents that Fred W. Smith, chairman of the Board of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, representing the Foundation, be inducted into the Order of James Smithson. Under Mr. Smith's direction, the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation has made a \$75 million total commitment to the Institution and become the second-largest donor to the Smithsonian since its founding. Accordingly, the Regents approved the following motion:

*VOTED that the Board of Regents accepts the recommendation of the Smithsonian National Board and approves the induction of Fred W. Smith, chairman of the Board of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, into the Order of James Smithson in grateful recognition of the Foundation's extraordinary generosity to the Smithsonian Institution.*

## APPOINTMENTS TO SMITHSONIAN ADVISORY BOARDS

*VOTED that the Board of Regents appoints Warren Adelson, Lynn Dixon Johnston, Barbara Mathes, and Barbara Stern Shapiro to the Board of Trustees of the Archives of American Art for three-year terms effective February 24, 2006.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents reappoints Reed Krakoff and Esme Usdan to the Board of Trustees of the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum for three-year terms effective immediately.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents appoints Randall A. Greene, Randy Jayne, Clayton M. Jones, Herbert D. Kelleher, and Marshall O. Larsen to the National Board of the National Air and Space Museum for three-year terms effective November 1, 2005.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents reappoints James Cash, James Johnson, Ann Jordan, Stan O’Neal, Frank Raines, and Tony Welters to the Advisory Council of the National Museum of African American History and Culture for three-year terms effective October 1, 2005.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents appoints Lucille Alderman, John Pemberton III, and Shirley Shapiro and reappoints J. Thomas Lewis, Holly W. Ross, and Robert T. Wall to the Board of the National Museum of African Art for three-year terms effective January 1, 2006.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents appoints Audrey Weil to the Board of the National Museum of American History, Behring Center, for a three-year term effective February 1, 2006.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents reappoints Emilio Moran, Yolanda Moses, and Shirley Sherwood to the Board of the National Museum of Natural History for three-year terms effective February 1, 2006.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents appoints John O. Boochever to the Commission of the National Portrait Gallery for a four-year term effective immediately.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents appoints Lee E. Dirks and John T. Kotelly and reappoints William G. Kerr and Ferdinand T. Stent to the Commission of the Smithsonian American Art Museum for four-year terms effective January 1, 2006.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents reappoints M. Ronald Ruskin and Anthony Welters to the Board of Directors of Smithsonian Business Ventures for three-year terms and reappoints Gary M. Beer, Sheila Burke, John R. Dailey, and Alice C. Maroni for one-year terms, all effective October 1, 2005.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents appoints Xavier Becerra, Thomas H. Castro, Stephen M. Cunningham, John C. Lopez, and Thomás Ybarra-Frausto to the National Board for the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives for three-year terms effective February 1, 2006.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents appoints Marlin Fitzwater to the Advisory Board of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center for a three-year term effective January 6, 2006.*

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF SMITHSONIAN ADVISORY BOARDS**

*VOTED that the Board of Regents approves the proposed revisions to the Bylaws of the Trustees of the Joseph H. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents approves the proposed revisions to the Smithsonian American Art Museum Commission Bylaws.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents approves the proposed revisions to the Smithsonian National Board for Latino Initiatives Bylaws.*

The amendments to the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden are to designate past Board members as Honorary or Emeritus Trustees. Revisions to the Smithsonian American Art Museum Commission Bylaws are to conform with practices in other Smithsonian art museums by eliminating the requirement for the Secretary's approval of art acquisitions, changing authority levels for deaccession and disposal of collections, providing for vacancies to be filled by standard four-year terms, and allowing flexibility in the staggering of Commission appointments. Changes to the Bylaws of the Smithsonian National Board for Latino Initiatives are suggested to reflect the change in the Institution's organizational structure and to redefine the guidelines for Board service to better support the Center's mission.

## **REPORTS OF SELECTED ADVISORY BOARDS**

As part of an ongoing effort to facilitate communications between the Smithsonian's advisory boards and its Board of Regents, the Regents reviewed reports from the advisory boards of the National Museum of the American Indian, the National Postal Museum's two advisory boards, the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, and Smithsonian Folkways Recordings.

## **REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Roger Sant offered an oral report of the Audit and Review Committee's January 27, 2006, meeting. He reported that the fiscal year 2005 audit, which was prepared by KPMG, again was produced on an accelerated schedule. Mr. Sant noted that the audit was very favorable, especially in its analysis of the Institution's disciplined management process, and that the Institution's fund-raising success, return on the endowment, increase in business income, and growth in net assets all contributed to the positive review. Moreover, the audit's Management Letter offered no new comments, which Mr. Sant emphasized is remarkable in the audit process, and the Institution's staff, and in particular Chief Financial Officer Alice Maroni, were credited with that result. Another achievement discussed in the Management Letter is the fact that the Smithsonian resolved all of the issues raised in last year's audit.

Mr. Sant also noted that the Institution's financial management processes, which previously had received the Federal government's worst rating, was awarded by the Office of Management and Budget the highest possible rating for fiscal year 2005. The improved rating, Mr. Sant said, was in all likelihood highly influential in the Office of Management and Budget's decision to provide a last-minute increase of \$15 million in the Institution's fiscal year 2006 allocation.

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES**

### ***Smithsonian-Related Legislation***

The Secretary introduced the report on Smithsonian-related legislative activities and issues by reviewing the Institution's ongoing discussions with the Office of Management and Budget about enhanced-use lease authority. As explained by the Secretary, the Institution is investigating

the option to partner, subject to the Regents' approval, with the private sector in the development of real estate activities. The Secretary also noted that the Smithsonian currently is engaged in conversations with the Centers for Disease Control about avian influenza research initiatives, as the Institution is uniquely positioned to offer substantial contributions to that effort. The Regents then were given updates on legislative actions of interest to the Smithsonian.

## **REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL**

*January – December 2005*

The Secretary updated the Regents about the Internal Revenue Service's audit of the Institution's filings for its business activities for fiscal years 1998 through 2002, which was first reported to the Board in 2002. He reported that the audit was successfully completed and the outcome was favorable to the Smithsonian. It was then noted that during calendar year 2005 there were approximately 14 administrative complaints, 19 Rehabilitation Act advice matters, and 47 administrative tort claims that required the active involvement of the Office of the General Counsel. During this period there also were 26 active cases, 16 of which were employment cases and two of which were tort claims to which the Smithsonian Institution was a named party. Two cases involved contracts, three intellectual property cases, one personal property, one administrative matter, and one other matter. There were 10 new cases and 10 completed cases, and 16 cases were carried over to the new year.

## **DONOR RECOGNITION AND CORPORATE SUPPORT**

The Regents approved the following resolutions for donor recognition and corporate support opportunities, which were developed in accordance with the fund-raising principles, policies, and procedures approved by the Board of Regents and applicable Smithsonian directives:

*VOTED that the Board of Regents authorizes the change of the National Museum of American History's subscript from "Behring Center" to "Kenneth E. Behring Center." In addition, the Board authorizes the transfer of the remaining \$1.4 million of Kenneth E. Behring's obligation to National Museum of Natural History to the National Museum of American History.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents recognizes the generosity of The Boeing Company to the National Air and Space Museum and gratefully approves the naming of the Boeing Aviation Hangar at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in its honor for a period of 15 years. This recognition will appear at the entrance to the facility and on all appropriate signage. In addition, the Regents gratefully approve the placement of a sign at the entrance of the How Things Fly exhibition at the National Air and Space Museum's National Mall building for a period of 10 years. The sign will read "How Things Fly, sponsored by Boeing."*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents recognizes the generosity and dedication of Michael and Victoria Callen to the Smithsonian and to the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture and gratefully approves the naming of an exhibition gallery in the Center in their honor. The gallery is to be named the Michael and Victoria Callen Gallery for a period of 20 years, or until the next comprehensive renovation, whichever occurs later.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents recognizes the generosity and dedication of Susan Reed Moseley and Furman C. Moseley, Jr., to the Smithsonian and to the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture by naming the Smithsonian American Art Museum's two Western Art galleries, as proposed, the Susan Reed Moseley Galleries.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution recognizes the generosity and dedication of Catherine Martin Willcox to the National Museum of the American Indian and gratefully approves the placement of a plaque honoring the Martin and Willcox families and Ira Hamilton Hayes outside of the Patrons' Lounge on the fourth floor of its National Mall museum. The plaque will remain in place for 10 years or until the next comprehensive renovation of the space, whichever first occurs.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents recognizes the generosity of the Joan and Herb Kelleher Charitable Foundation to the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center and gratefully approves naming the Center's Aviation Hangar Information-Tours Desk in honor of the donor.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents recognizes the generosity and dedication of Ken and Marilou Hakuta to the Smithsonian American Art Museum and, by means of their gift, gratefully creates an endowment for the conservation and maintenance of artworks that involve technology in the Museum's collection. The endowment is to be named the Paik-Hakuta Family Endowment for Technology in Art.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents recognizes the generosity and dedication of John L. and Hope L. Furth and, by means of their gift and consistent with their wishes, gratefully creates an endowment to benefit the programs and activities of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. Further, this endowment is to be named the John L. and Hope L. Furth Endowment for the Smithsonian Institution Libraries.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents recognizes the generosity and dedication of Alfa Radford and the friends and colleagues of the late Dr. Harrison E. Radford to the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and, by means of their gifts and consistent with their wishes, gratefully creates an endowment to benefit the Wolbach Library of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. The endowment is to be named the Harrison E. Radford Fund.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents authorizes the National Museum of Natural History to establish an endowment fund to support the ongoing maintenance, operations, and improvements for the Museum's planned Ocean Hall. The Museum will establish this endowment using \$200,000 of a \$500,000 unrestricted gift received in April 2005 and intends to add to it gifts received through fund-raising activities associated with the Ocean Hall and the Ocean Science Initiative. Further, the endowment fund is to be known as the Ocean Hall Endowment.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents authorizes the National Sciences Resources Center to create a quasi-endowment fund to benefit the program activities of the Center. The endowment will be funded using unrestricted gifts to the Center.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents approves the creation of a pooled quasi-endowment fund for the general operating purposes of the National Air and Space Museum. This account may be funded by bequests of \$500,000 or less which are received by the Museum and otherwise are not restricted by the donor.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents recognizes the generosity and dedication of the James F. Dicke family to the Smithsonian American Art Museum and, by means of their gift, gratefully establishes an endowment for the maintenance of the Museum's galleries and building, and other activities of the Museum, as determined by its director. The endowment is to be named the James F. Dicke Family Endowment for the Smithsonian American Art Museum. In addition, Room E222 in the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture is to be named in perpetuity The James F. Dicke Family Gallery in further recognition of the family's generosity.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents recognizes the generosity and dedication of Albert H. Small to the National Museum of American History, Behring Center, and gratefully approves the naming of the Albert Small Documents Gallery. In addition, the Regents gratefully approve in advance the creation of an endowment for the ongoing support of programs for this gallery, which may be created using up to 25% of the donor's gift.*

*VOTED that the Board of Regents recognizes the generosity and dedication of Richard A. Manoogian and the Richard and Jane Manoogian Foundation to the Archives of American Art and, in grateful recognition of the Foundation's gift, approves the naming of the Manoogian Chief of Reference position for five years.*

## **REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

During the morning meeting of the Committee of the Whole, Deputy Secretary Burke presented an effective overview of the Institution's accomplishments during fiscal year 2005, including its financial highlights. As discussed by Ms. Burke, fiscal year 2005 was a good year for the Institution. Overall visitation at Smithsonian museums dramatically rose, private-sector giving increased, net income from non-Federal retail business exceeded projections, and the Endowment outperformed the Smithsonian's market benchmarks. Despite ongoing challenges with Federal funding, it is clear that the Smithsonian is continuing to make progress in achieving its stated goals, including the revitalization of its aging and dilapidated physical infrastructure.

When presenting the Finance and Investment Committee's report during the afternoon meeting of the Board of Regents, Committee Chair Alan Spoon supported Ms. Burke's assertion that fiscal year 2005 was financially solid. It was noted that the Committee's report was based on the Institution's fiscal year 2005 financial statement audit and that the fiscal year-end totals reflected therein were audited actuals.

During fiscal year 2005, work continued on the enhancement of the Smithsonian's security, the modernization of its telephone systems and computers, and the upgrade of the Institution's

financial control infrastructure, despite considerable staff shortfalls due to insufficient Federal funding. To meet the Smithsonian's Federal and unrestricted Trust financial goals, management also imposed both Federal and Trust staff hiring freezes and conducted a strategic workforce planning process.

Despite these initiatives, an April 2005 report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) validated the Smithsonian's \$2.3 billion facilities revitalization and maintenance requirement and further substantiated the Institution's compelling need for increased Federal funding. While Federal funding for revitalization of physical facilities in fiscal year 2005 represented a marked increase over prior years, it was insufficient in its support of the Smithsonian's needs. Looking forward, the Federal facilities appropriation for fiscal year 2006 and the amount included in the Administration's fiscal year 2007 budget request represent a sharp reduction from fiscal year 2005.

When discussing the Institution's budget resolution for fiscal year 2007, it was noted that the negotiation of the Smithsonian's Federal budget with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) was, as expected, very difficult. The Administration's funding priorities remain the war on terrorism and homeland security, in addition to hurricane-relief costs and a commitment to tax cuts. In response, OMB initially recommended a 1% reduction in Smithsonian funding, as compared to its fiscal year 2006 appropriation. However, based on the Smithsonian's appeal to OMB and strong Regent support, the Office of Management and Budget ultimately agreed to a 4.8% increase in the Institution's fiscal year 2007 appropriation compared to the prior year.

Although this increase falls well short of the funding needed to address the Institution's aging facilities (and represents a significant drop from fiscal year 2005 funding for facilities revitalization), the Smithsonian acknowledges that its final fiscal year 2007 budget increase (as measured in percentage terms) is better than that of most non-defense government agencies. During its meeting on January 19, the Finance and Investment Committee therefore agreed to ask the Board of Regents to approve a resolution to authorize the Secretary to submit to Congress the Federal budget request for fiscal year 2007. Accordingly, the Regents approved the following motion:

*VOTED that the Board of Regents authorizes the Secretary to submit to Congress a Federal budget for fiscal year 2007 as part of the President's budget in the amount negotiated with OMB and authorizes the Secretary to inform OMB and Congress fully about the implications of the President's budget for the mission and priorities of the Institution.*

In concluding this portion of the Committee's report, the Regents then were apprised of the Investment Committee's activities, especially those that relate to the modernization of the Institution's management of its Endowment. The Investment Committee remains committed to the development of a more aggressive, heavier mix of hedge-related kinds of investment in private equity that will increase returns on the Endowment without taking inappropriate risks.

## **STATUS REPORT OF THE *AD HOC* COMMITTEE ON FACILITIES REVITALIZATION**

During the morning meeting of the Committee of the Whole, Roger Sant, chairman of the Regents' *ad hoc* Committee on Facilities Revitalization, noted that the Committee remains determined to find a means of addressing the Smithsonian's \$2.3 billion backlog in facilities revitalization and maintenance. Secretary Small then updated the Board about an unsuccessful effort to find a one-time solution through a special amendment to a supplemental appropriation. The next-best option, he suggested, would be the addition of an additional \$100 million for facilities revitalization and maintenance to each of the Institution's appropriations over the next 10 years. A Regent observed the growth of considerable interest and support in the House of Representatives to secure new sources of revenues while reducing some of the Institution's least-justified programmatic expenditures. Interest in bonding and other forms of financing was also expressed, but it was noted that the Institution lacks a source of revenues for repayment. The Committee plans to reconvene before the May 2006 Regents' meeting, when it will update the Board about its most recent efforts to address this critical problem.

## **REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee reported on its successful nomination of Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., as the new Chancellor of the Smithsonian and member of the Board's Executive Committee. Committee Chair Patricia Stonesifer then discussed the Committee's efforts to identify an appropriate nominee to fill the position of Dr. Ibáñez, who will conclude his second and final term on the Board of Regents in May 2006. Smithsonian National Board Chair Patricia Frost excused herself from this portion of the proceedings.

Ms. Stonesifer reminded the Regents of earlier discussions wherein they agreed upon the qualities considered critical to the selection of a potential nominee to the Smithsonian's Board of Regents and reported that, upon due consideration of the Board's direction, the Nominating Committee had selected Florida resident Dr. Phillip Frost. Dr. Frost is recognized for his outstanding business, medical, and academic acumen, as well as his significant civic and philanthropic contributions. The Board of Regents then approved the following motion:

*VOTED that the Board of Regents nominates Phillip Frost to serve a statutory six-year term as a citizen member of the Board of Regents, effective May 5, 2006, and asks its Congressional members to introduce and support such legislation as soon as practicable.*

## **SITE SELECTION FOR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE**

Mr. Sant introduced the discussion of the site selection for the new National Museum of African American History and Culture. He noted that, in accordance with Public Law 108-194, the Smithsonian had consulted with a great many heads of interested organizations; that Regents had visited each of the four sites from which they were to choose; that, as mandated by Public Law



107-106, the Regents had taken into consideration the reports and plans of the National Museum of African American History and Culture Plan for Action Presidential Commission; that the Regents had benefited from the findings of the professional analysis of the four sites; and that on December 5 Regents met with representatives of the Council of the National Museum of African American History and Culture to consider the Council's recommendations.

After a discussion by the Regents and a procedural vote, the following motion was approved:

*VOTED that the Board of Regents, having fully considered its obligations under Public Law 108-194 and the recommendations it has received from statutory bodies, the Presidential Action Commission of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the Council of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, designates the Monument Site, bounded by 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets, Constitution Avenue, and Madison Drive, for the purpose of building and operating the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.*

The Regents next discussed the future of the Arts and Industries Building, which will be fully vacated this year in accordance with the Regents' earlier determination that the building's state of decay renders it unsafe for occupancy. As the Institution now must explore every possible avenue to obtain the resources necessary to save and revitalize the landmark building, the Secretary suggested that it might be useful to explore public-private partnerships and cited successful examples of such alliances. He added that he has consulted with a respected real estate firm to become familiar with the process of soliciting proposals for public-private partnerships but that, while preliminary assessments might seem promising in principle, he would need to consult more widely with members of Congress and the Administration before encouraging discussions between real estate consultants and developers and other private-sector entities. The Regents offered their support for the Secretary to pursue the course of action he proposed.

## **PROGRAMMATIC AND FINANCIAL GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2005 AND GOALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006**

Deputy Secretary Burke offered a report on the Institution's fiscal year 2005 programmatic and financial goals and accomplishments, as well as a review of its fiscal year 2006 goals. Ms. Burke noted that the Institution had met practically all of its fiscal year 2005 goals, particularly those that related to Secretary's previously stated objectives of "Increased Public Engagement," "Strengthened Research," "Enhanced Management Excellence," and "Greater Financial Strength."

The Institution's fiscal year 2006 goals include a number of significant points, including a commitment to take all necessary steps to defend the requirement for \$2.3 billion in additional funds for maintenance and revitalization. The Smithsonian also aspires to secure significant increases in Federal and Trust funding in order to address this critical shortfall. At the same time,

it pledges to undertake or maintain a number of significant initiatives, such as making all scheduled progress on major facilities capital and exhibitions projects, as well as IT, financial, and process management initiatives; increasing physical and virtual visits; convening the Smithsonian Art commission; implementing Exhibition Guidelines; improving the representation of women and minorities on staff; developing a reorganization plan for non-museum education and outreach programs while continuing to implement the Education Strategic Plan; and demonstrating progress on the Institution's security and safety measures. When discussing the rest of the Institution's 2006 goals, Ms. Burke added that the future development of the Institution's annual goals papers will include the distribution of draft copies to the Board of Regents in advance of each fiscal year. This change is intended to encourage more substantive input from the Board.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION, INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMPENSATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

The plenary meeting of the Board of Regents concluded at 1:45 p.m., after which the Regents met in Executive Session to discuss the recommendations of the Committee on Compensation and Human Resources. The Committee had met on December 5, 2005, to conduct its annual review of the Institution's compensation philosophy and procedures and to consider recommendations for compensation adjustments for Smithsonian management. Following discussion of the Committee's report, the Regents then approved the following motion:

*VOTED that the Board of Regents approves the compensation adjustments for Smithsonian management for calendar year 2006 as presented by its Committee on Compensation and Human Resources.*

The Board of Regents adjourned their Executive Session meeting at about 2:15 p.m. A press conference to announce the selection of the site for the new National Museum of African American History and Culture subsequently was held at 3:00 p.m.

## **REGENTS' DINNER AND MONDAY MORNING EVENTS**

On Sunday evening, the Regents, senior officers, and spouses attended a casual reception and dinner in the Panda House of the National Zoological Park, where they were entertained by one of the Institution's newest stars: six-month-old male Giant Panda cub Tai Shan.

During the meeting of the Committee of the Whole on Monday morning, the Regents discussed the selection of the site for the new National Museum of African American History; the Institution's accomplishments in 2005 and goals for 2006; and the efforts of the Regents' *ad hoc* Committee on Facilities Revitalization to address the Institution's \$2.3 billion backlog in facilities revitalization and maintenance. They also were briefed on the recent tour of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Center (STRI) in Panama by seven Regents. The Regents were deeply impressed by the extraordinary science programs, research, and staff at STRI and also were honored during dinners with the President of Panama, the Fundação Smithsonian, and the American Ambassador to Panama, in addition to being led on a special tour by the Administrator

of the Panama Canal. In appreciation of the work that went into this successful trip, the Regents approved the following motion:

*VOTED that the Board of Regents expresses its great appreciation to Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Director Ira Rubinoff, Smithsonian Director of Special Events and Protocol Nicole Krakora, their staffs, and other members of Smithsonian management who facilitated the Regents' January 9–13, 2006, visit to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. Their dedicated efforts successfully introduced the Regents to the Institute's critically important work and extraordinary staff, as well as the local community that supports this valuable member of both the Smithsonian Institution and the greater international scientific community.*

The Regents then adjourned for lunch in the Castle Library, during which a special presentation was offered by JoGayle Howard, DVM, PhD, of the National Zoological Park's Department of Reproductive Sciences. Dr. Howard, whose studies focus on fertility, infertility, and the role of reproductive technologies in promoting the reproduction of rare and endangered species, developed a new artificial insemination technique for giant pandas that recently led to the successful birth of Tai Shan. She engaged the Regents' attention with a fascinating illustrated lecture about the "Challenges Facing Reproduction in Endangered Species."