

## Minutes

# The British Museum Board Meeting 6 December 2018

### Held at the British Museum

#### Present

Sir Richard Lambert  
Chairman  
The Hon Nigel Boardman  
Miss Patricia Cumper  
Ms Clarissa Farr  
Professor Chris Gosden  
Ms Muriel Gray  
Professor Nicola Lacey  
Sir Deryck Maughan  
Sir Charlie Mayfield  
Mr John Micklethwait  
Sir Paul Nurse  
Mr Gavin Patterson (by phone from  
Item 5)  
Mr Mark Pears  
Mr Grayson Perry  
Sir Paul Ruddock  
Lord Sassoon (by phone)  
Dame Minouche Shafik  
Ms Ahdaf Soueif

#### In Attendance

Hartwig Fischer  
Director  
Joanna Mackle  
Deputy Director  
Jonathan Williams  
Deputy Director  
Christopher Yates  
Deputy Director  
Mark Bates  
Governance & Planning Manager  
Jill Maggs (Item 5)  
Head of Exhibitions

**1. Welcome and apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies been received from Cheryl Carolus, Elizabeth Corley and Adair Turner.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

- 2.1 No interests were declared.

***For Approval***

**3. Human Remains Policy**

- 3.1 Jonathan Williams informed the Board that some of the proposed minor revisions to the Human Remains policy required re-wording. The Board approved the policy in principle and authorised the Chairman to approve the final version.

***Action: Jonathan Williams***

**4. Acquisitions Policy**

- 4.1 The Board approved minor revisions to the Acquisitions policy.

***For Discussion***

**5. Exhibitions Process Review**

- 5.1 Jill Maggs presented the outcome of a review of the exhibitions programme process and the approach that would be adopted to ensure that strategic objectives were met. The Board endorsed the proposed approach.

**6. International relations**

- 6.1 The Director provided an update on cultural property matters and some of the Museum's current and proposed international projects. The Board gave its strong support to the Museum's approach.

**7. Visit numbers**

- 7.1 Joanna Mackle updated the Board on onsite visit numbers. The Board expressed concern at the decline in visits and asked for further analysis to be presented at the next Standing Committee meeting.

***Action: Joanna Mackle***

***Standing Business***

**8. Minutes**

- 8.1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 29 September 2018 were approved as a true record of the meeting.
- 8.2 Under matters arising, the Chairman informed the Board that he had approved revisions to the De-accession policy.

**9. Chairman's report**

- 9.1 The Chairman wished to record the Board's thanks to Lesley Fitton who was retiring as Keeper of Greece and Rome.
- 9.2 The Chairman congratulated Jonathan Williams, Emma Hayes, Tony Wilson and Jane Whittaker on securing planning permission for the British Museum Archaeological Research Collection.
- 9.3 The Chairman informed the Board that he had approved minor amendments to the Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Prevention Policy and the Anti-Money Laundering Policy.

**10. Management update**

- 10.1 The Board noted the Management Report.
- 10.2 The Director reported on communications with staff about the Rosetta Project. He also reported on his recent visit to the USA.
- 10.3 Christopher Yates provided a progress report on the British Museum Archaeological Research Collection project and Phase 2 of the Rosetta Project.
- 10.4 Jonathan Williams informed the Board that he would be overseeing the management of the Greece and Rome department following the keeper's retirement.
- 10.5 Joanna Mackle provided a progress report on the website project.

**11. Committee reports**

- 11.1 Nigel Boardman reported that the Audit Committee meeting in November had discussed the Museum's Safeguarding policy and had reviewed the Risk Management policy and had agreed that it remained appropriate. The Committee would be considering the impact of the UK's departure from the EU at its next meeting.

***For Information***

**12. Loan approvals**

- 12.1 The Board noted the loans approved by the Standing Committee.

**13. Committee minutes**

- 13.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 5 July and the Standing Committee meeting of 6 September.

**14. Advocacy Update**

- 14.1 The Board noted the update.

**15. Any other business**

- 15.1 There was no other business.

**16. Succession planning**

*The management team except for the Director and Christopher Yates withdrew from the meeting for this item.*

16.1 The succession plan for senior management roles was discussed.

**17. Closed session**

17.1 The Board held a closed session.

\_\_\_\_\_Chairman

**Date of next meeting:** 21 March 2019, the British Museum