

Minutes

The British Museum Board Meeting 7 July 2016

Held at the British Museum

Present

Sir Richard Lambert
Chairman
Ms Karen Armstrong
The Hon Nigel Boardman
Ms Patricia Cumper
Dame Liz Forgan
Professor Clive Gamble
Ms Muriel Gray
Professor Nicola Lacey
Lord Lupton
Sir Paul Nurse
Mr Gavin Patterson
Mr Grayson Perry
Lord Sassoon
Professor Amartya Sen
Dame Nemat Shafik
Lord Stern
Lord Turner
Baroness Wheatcroft

In Attendance

Hartwig Fischer
Director
Joanna Mackle
Deputy Director
Jonathan Williams
Deputy Director
Christopher Yates
Deputy Director
Mark Bates
Governance & Planning Manager
Jane Whittaker (Items 3 & 4)
Head of Finance & HR

1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed Hartwig Fischer to his first meeting as Director.
- 1.2 Apologies had been received from Ms Cheryl Carolus, Ms Wasfi Kani, Sir Deryck Maughan, Mr John Micklethwait and Ms Ahdaf Soueif.

2. Declaration of Interests

- 2.1 Clive Gamble declared interests in relation to the Blythe House project.
- 2.2 Nigel Boardman informed the Board that Slaughter and May was providing pro bono advice to the Museum which may lead to publicity benefits for the company.

For Approval

3. British Museum Annual Report & Accounts 2015/16

- 3.1 Adair Turner presented the Audit Committee's Annual Report, which was duly noted by the Board.
- 3.2 The Board approved the consolidated Annual Report and Accounts 2015/16, noting minor amendments made on the recommendation of the Audit Committee.
- 3.3 The Board noted the auditor's report and approved the letter of representation.

4. British Museum Friends Annual Report & Accounts 2015/16

- 4.1 The British Museum Friends (BMF) Board approved the BMF Annual Report and Accounts 2015/16.
- 4.2 The BMF Board noted the auditor's report and approved the letter of representation, on the recommendation of the BMF Audit Committee.

5. Governance Principles and Procedures

- 5.1 The Board approved the new Governance Principles and Procedures on the recommendation of the Nominations and Governance Committee.

Standing Business

6. The Director's Report

- 6.1 The Director reported on his key activities since taking up post. He also provided an update on discussions on the development of a masterplan.

7. Minutes

- 7.1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 24 March 2016 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

7.2 Matters arising from the minutes:

7.2.1 Item 8.2.2, Working and Travelling Overseas Policy: the policy had been approved and had been disseminated to staff.

7.2.2 Item 9.2, International advisory group: Joanna Mackle informed the Board that the regional strategies were being reviewed and that an advisory group meeting would be convened when required.

7.2.3 Item 10.2, Damaged object: Jonathan Williams informed the Board that the object had been successfully repaired.

8. Chairman's Report

8.1 The Chairman confirmed the reappointments of James Lupton, Gavin Patterson and Ahdaf Soueif by the Prime Minister, and the reappointment of Paul Nurse by the Secretary of State.

8.2 The Chairman informed the Board of that he had appointed Nigel Boardman as a Deputy Chair from 2 October 2016.

8.3 The Chairman informed the Board of the following changes to committee membership:

- Patience Wheatcroft would become Chair of the Nominations and Governance Committee from 2 October 2016;
- Paul Nurse would become Chair of the Research Committee from 2 October 2016;
- Nigel Boardman had been appointed to the Standing Committee and the Nominations and Governance Committee;
- Nicola Lacey had been appointed to the Nominations and Governance Committee and the Research Committee;
- Clive Gamble and Wasfi Kani had stood down from the Audit Committee; and
- Mr Keith Williams, Deputy Chairman of the John Lewis Partnership, had been co-opted to the Audit Committee.

8.4 The Chairman reported on his constructive meeting with the Museum's trade unions representatives in June.

8.5 The Chairman led a discussion on the Museum's fundraising principles.

9. Management Report

9.1 The Board noted the Management Report.

9.2 Jonathan Williams informed the Board that, at its next meeting, the Research Committee would be discussing the progress of the Museum's research programme since its foundation under the chairmanship of Nick Stern in 2012. He also reported that the four co-opted members of the committee had been reappointed by the Chairman.

Clive Gamble left the room for Item 9.3

9.3 Christopher Yates provided an update on the Blythe House project and Jonathan Williams reported on the search for an off-site location.

9.4 Joanna Mackle provided an update on the Zayed National Museum project.

10. Committee Reports

10.1 Adair Turner reported on the Audit Committee meeting held earlier that day.

10.2 Liz Forgan advised that the main business of the Nominations and Governance Committee had been covered under Items 5 and 8.

For Information

11. Committee Minutes

11.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Standing Committee meetings held on 25 February and 16 May 2016, the Audit Committee meeting of 29 October 2015, and the Nominations and Governance Committee meetings of 3 December 2015 and 24 March 2016.

12. Advocacy Update

12.1 The Board noted the update.

13. Loans

13.1 The Board noted loans approved by the Standing Committee and the Chairman.

14. Loans Strategy Report 2015/16

14.1 The Board noted the report.

The management team, except for the Director and Christopher Yates, withdrew from the meeting before a closed session of the Board was held.

15. Closed Session

15.1 Christopher Yates presented the senior staff succession plan.

_____Chairman

Date of next meeting: 30 September - 1 October, Manchester

[Return to Agenda](#)

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