

Minutes

The British Museum Board Meeting 19 March 2015

Held at the British Museum

Present

Sir Richard Lambert Chairman
Ms Karen Armstrong
Professor Sir Christopher Bayly
The Hon Nigel Boardman
Ms Cheryl Carolus
Ms Patricia Cumper
Dame Liz Forgan
Professor Clive Gamble
Sir Antony Gormley
Ms Penny Hughes
Sir George Iacobescu
Ms Wasfi Kani
Mr James Lupton
Mr John Micklethwait
Sir Paul Nurse
Lord Sassoon
Professor Amartya Sen
Lord Stern
Lord Turner
Baroness Wheatcroft

In Attendance

(from Item 3)
Neil MacGregor
Director
Joanna Mackle
Deputy Director
Marilyn Standley
Deputy Director
Jonathan Williams
Deputy Director
Christopher Yates
Deputy Director
Mark Bates (from Item 1)
Governance & Planning Manager

1. Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies had been received from Sir Deryck Maughan, Mr Gavin Patterson, Sir Martin Sorrell and Ms Ahdaf Soueif.

2. Closed session

(Mark Bates in attendance)

- 2.1 The Board discussed succession planning in respect of the Director and approved the terms of reference of the Search Committee.

3. Minutes

- 3.1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 20 November 2014 were approved, subject to an amendment to the list of those present, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record.

- 3.2 Matter arising:

- 3.2.1 Item 5.3, Trustee succession: the Chairman thanked those who had suggested names of potential Trustees and said that he would welcome further suggestions.

- 3.2.2 Item 8.1, Collection display: a discussion on collection display had been rescheduled to the July Board meeting.

4. Declaration of Interests

- 4.1 No interests were declared.

5. Management Update

- 5.1 Marilyn Standley provided an update on security.

- 5.2 The Director sought the Board's view on the extent of the Museum's engagement in a project in the Middle East.

- 5.3 Jonathan Williams provided an update on the DCMS response to UNESCO's offer of mediation in respect of the British Museum's Parthenon sculptures.

For Approval

6. Operating Plan and Budget

- 6.1 Christopher Yates presented a draft Operating Plan and Budget for 2015/16 to 2017/18. Following discussion, the Board approved the Operating Plan and Budget for 2015/16 and decided to revisit the subsequent two years after the announcement of the outcome of the next Government spending review.

7. Loans Strategy

- 7.1 Jonathan Williams presented the new Loans Strategy which the Standing Committee had recommended for approval. It was agreed that the strategy would be approved by the Chairman once proposed revisions had been considered.

Action: Jonathan Williams, Deputy Director

8. Reserves Policies and Grants

- 8.1 The British Museum Board confirmed its commitment to the Reserves Policy; approved the designation of funds; and approved grants as recommended.
- 8.2 The British Museum Friends Board confirmed its commitment to the BMF Reserves Policy, and approved grants to the British Museum as recommended.

9. Loans

- 9.1 The Board approved a significant loan to the Israel Museum, Jerusalem to mark its anniversary, and also approved the loans associated with the British Museum's *Human Image* exhibition to the Seoul Arts Center, Republic of Korea.

For Information

10. Management Report

- 10.1 The Board noted the report.

11. Advocacy Update

- 11.1 The Board noted the update.

12. Equality and Diversity Policy

- 12.1 The Board noted the policy which had been approved by the Standing Committee.

13. Committee Reports and Minutes

- 13.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Nominations and Governance Committee meeting of 3 July 2014 and the Audit Committee meetings of 3 July, 14 November and 24 November 2014.
- 13.2 Liz Forgan reported back on the business of the Nominations and Governance Committee meeting held earlier in the day.
- 13.3 Adair Turner reported that the Audit Committee which had met earlier in the day had discussed security; the Zayed National Museum project; and the Internal Audit plan.

Any Other Business

14. Trustees Appointments

- 14.1 The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Prime Minister had reappointed John Micklethwait as a Trustee for a further four years from 1 August 2015.
- 14.2 The Chairman was also pleased to announce that Grayson Perry had been appointed a Trustee by the Secretary of State on the nomination of the Royal Academy for four years from 2 April 2015.

15. Board and Standing Committee business

- 15.1 The Chairman informed the Trustees that he would be reviewing the content of future Board and Standing Committee meetings.

Date of next Board meeting: Thursday 2 July 2015

_____Chairman