

MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

October 18, 2005

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, October 18, 2005, in the 6th floor Board of Regents Conference Room in the Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair, Les Guice called the meeting to order. The roll was called and a quorum was not established.

Council Members Present:

Les Guice, Chair
John Lawson, Vice Chair
Harold Silverman
Michael Stubblefield
Donald Vandal
Joel Tohline

Council Members Absent:

Secretary/Treasurer
Duane Blumberg
Steve Landry
John Lawson, Vice-Chair
Laura Levy
Ed Seidel
Jeffery Smith
Greg Speyrer
Victor Ukpolo

Guests:

Mike Abbiatti, Board of Regents
Carl Brandt, LSU
Gerry Catalano, IBM
Dave Crockett, IBM
Bob Fudickar, Economic Development
Debbie Griffith, BLS
Charlie McMahan, LSU
Beth O'Quinn, IBM
Dave Taylor, Global Data
Angie Welch, IBM

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 16, 2005, MINUTES

No motion to approve minutes was made because of a lack of quorum.

NLR AND LONI MC LEADERSHIP BRIEFING

Mike Abbiatti began by telling the Management Council that the NLR Board was very concerned about the aftermath of the storms in Louisiana. He also noted that the NLR node is present and up and running in Louisiana. He then told the Council that slowdowns and negotiations are the difficult part of dealing with the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and that the response to the storms was phenomenal. The first 72 hours after the storms was very difficult. Campus representatives responded admirably. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) program provided 27,500 people representing all fifty US states, and appropriate equipment to assist in the emergency. IBM and BellSouth did an excellent job responding to the aftermath of the hurricanes.

Next, Mr. Abbiatti told the Management Council that he is creating a postsecondary education organization to serve as a “plug-in” for the nationwide Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The organization will be in partnership with other states focusing on disaster preparedness, collaboration and resource sharing during a natural or man-made disaster, and disaster recovery. Next, he told the Council that there will be events planned that will include LONI and how LONI could help with future situations of disaster. He mentioned that LONI might be able to track displaced students, faculty, and others after a disaster. Finally, Mr. Abbiatti reminded the Council that effective backup and data retrieval was an important process that needed to be linked to LONI and the associated processing/storage infrastructure.

Chair Guice thanked Mr. Abbiatti for his work at the EOC office during and after the disaster. He also noted that even during the wake of the disaster many people were still working on the LONI project.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

In the absence of Dr. Steve Landry, Chief Technical Advisor, Charlie McMahon gave an update to the Council. He began by telling the Council that the IGrid Demo had people from Europe and LSU at the presentation and the response was outstanding. Next, he told the Council that the fiber bids for the Baton Rouge loop had been awarded. Next, he stated that state purchasing is working on the bids for the local loop fibers. The IBM P5 parallel processing platforms are acquired and have been tested and the machines are being configured. Next, he told the Council that most of the routing gear has been acquired but all the optical gear has not, and that it needs to be completed before the discounts run out.

Mr. McMahon then stated that the installations on the campuses are essentially complete. He made mention that the need now is to have the administrators to run the machines.

Mr. Bob Fudicker from the Department of Economic Development was present and told the Council that he was pleased to be working with the Council on economic development issues.

LONG-TERM LONI MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Dr. Guice told the Council that things will need to be managed on a priority basis and the Council has begun to look at ways to get campuses involved to manage the operational activities of LONI. He stated that he had put together a proposal and would distribute it to the Council next week.

Next, Dr. Guice told the Council that the Executive Director search had been put on hold because of budget uncertainties and that the applicants should be notified of the status of the search. In conclusion, Dr. Guice told the Council that the meetings have been reverted to a once a month schedule. The next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2005.

PUBLIC EVENTS

There were no public events discussed.

MOTION

No motions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the LONI Management Council, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.