

MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

February 14, 2006

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 2:08 p.m., Tuesday, February 14, 2006, 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 established.

Council Members Present:

Les Guice, Chair
Paul Barron
Mr. Bob Fudickar
Steve Landry
Laura Levy
Dr. Brad O'Hara
Michael Ralph
Ed Seidel
Harold Silverman
Jeffery Smith

Council Members Absent:

Michael Stubblefield
Greg Speyrer
Joel Tohline
Donald Vandal

Guests:

Mike Abbiatti, Board of Regents
Dan Ballard, LETA
Dave Crockett, IBM
Charlie McMahon, LSU
Angie Welch, IBM

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 10, 2006 MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Steve Landry, seconded by Dr. Harold Silverman, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January, 2006, LONI Management Council meeting.

NLR AND LONI MC LEADERSHIP BRIEFING

Dr. Guice began by asking Mike Abbiatti to give an update on NLR. Mike Abbiatti began by telling the Management Council that they are one piece of paper short for having the

Jackson to Baton Rouge fiber route finalized. State purchasing will provide a letter that will complete the process. The NLR and I2 merger was discussed at the last NLR board meeting, and the decision is to move forward with a merger mind set. They are going to create a network project that will involve the NLR and I2 communities. Attorneys are reviewing the issues and the rules about monopolies. The 15th of March is still the date set to have a definitive document that would describe the merger. He then told the Council that he has asked Brian Voss to serve as the LONI advisor for the merger process because he is familiar with the research side and is also very familiar with all the players with I2 and NLR. Mr. Voss is very well respected within the two groups and will give excellent council about the merger as the process moves forward. Next, Abbiatti told the Council that Oklahoma is going to host a conference soon for the Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas partners of the NLR. This group comprises the LOTA Regional Optical Network.

Mr. Abbiatti then told the Council that he was in Alexandria at a Homeland Security meeting. Homeland Security is under a great deal of pressure to get a lot done between now and the first of June. The meeting is a three day meeting to discuss funding through a Homeland Security grant program that the state has received funds for. He went there to discuss higher education's roll in the process. Twice, LONI has come up totally unsolicited in terms of the communication system. In addition, LONI is being discussed along the lines of DHH and electronic patient records.

The portable patient record is high on the list of everyone that was involved in the disaster response. He thinks that the first contact will probably come from the State Police for the use of LONI as an emergency backhaul mechanism. He then told the Council that it was be wise if there was an emergency response agenda prepared for LONI. Next, there was some discussion about LONI being designated as critical infrastructure. No decisions were made, and more information was requested of Homeland Security on this issue.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Guice began by welcoming Paul Barron, Interim CIO at Tulane to the Council.

Dr. Guice then welcomed Mike Graham from McNeese University. He then told the Council that Mr. Graham had been providing leadership the University of Louisiana System CIO group. Next, he asked Dr. Landry to give the technical update.

Dr. Steve Landry began by telling the Management Council that the router gear is on site at all seven initial locations. The optical gear is also installed at Southern, LSU, UNO and Tulane. The rest of the optical gear will be installed next week at LaTech, Health Sciences Center - Shreveport, and ULL. The P5 was just installed at LaTech and received good publicity. March, April, May and June will have installation of P5's at Tulane, Southern, UNO, and ULL. It looks like at the middle of the Summer the computational infrastructure should be in place and they are optimistic that the network will be completed.

Next, he told the Council that with respect to the fiber there are a couple of challenges. Finalizing the I-49 corridor, the AT&T agreements, and getting those portions of the state completed are what is being worked on right now. Over the last two weeks they have been working with the leadership over at the Division of Administration (DOA) and Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and are at the point where they have a cooperative endeavor agreement they are in somewhat agreement about. Next, he told the Council that the Division of Administration is meeting with DOTD today to finalize some more of the understanding of the agreement. Hopefully in the next couple of working days there will be a cooperative endeavor agreement that can be presented to the Regents and the Management Council for review and approval. The agreement says that DOTD bring fiber assets from numerous locations in the state to the project and state owned facilities that will

be part of the network and they are included in the agreement. For bringing that to the project they will be provided bandwidth on the backbone. In addition, the agreement seeks to have the cooperation of the Office of Telecommunications (OTM) as the primary state affiliate who helps service the interface for the other state agencies. The overall concept is that OTM would be provided the backbone to LONI and they would be responsible for connecting the other state agencies.

Next, Dr. Guice asked if Tulane would consider hosting the next Management Council meeting on the Tulane Campus on March 14th since the P5 will be installed. Mr. Barron accepted the proposal to have the next Management Council meeting at Tulane. Ms. Angie Welch with IBM told the Council that the IBM building in New Orleans is right next to Tulane and they would provide space for the meeting if needed. Dr Guice then stated that if they can show progress particularly in New Orleans with Tulane as a partner that it could have a real positive impact on the state and on LONI. Charlie McMahon then told the Council that he would expect the Board of Regents press area to really play up the meeting in New Orleans. It was then discussed that Mr. Barron should confer with Kevin Hardy of the Board of Regent for press related issues. It was then discussed that IBM might want to have some training classes for the staff of Tulane as to how to use the P5's.

Next, Dr. Ed. Seidel gave the Management Council an update on the research activities. Dr. Seidel began by telling the Management Council that LSU had just successfully submitted a proposal Friday to the NSF for the super computing facility. It was a \$67 million proposal and included is \$30 million for an IBM computer. The worked very closely with the IBM team to make it happen. The proposal is fundamentally built on the

concept of LONI. It would be a national facility with a statewide outreach. The machines for the facility would be 200 times the size of individual LONI machines. It would be the largest facility operated by the National Science Foundation. They went to the Board of Regents and asked for funding for outreach staff. The idea would be that they would have two people working full time to develop the application community across the state. The proposal involved three major scientific sites. Argon National Lab, Berkley National Lab, and the Renaissance National Lab worked very closely with LSU and SURA. Next, Dr. Seidel noted that in terms of press releases everyone should know that even after Katrina Louisiana and LONI is for real and there is still great progress. IBM and SURA are working with LSU to provide a very special price on the IBM Power 5 Plus Systems that would be deployed in December 2006. The idea is that the systems would be deployed at the NLR hubs across the SURA region and used in a similar way that LONI is being used.

Next, Mr. Bob Fudickar told the Council that he is very hesitant about giving the reports without the executive director being in place. He has gone to LSU since grid computing is new in the economic development world. He is still remiss in moving forward with policies without the executive director in place. He then mentioned that they need to discuss where they are headed with candidates. He noted that the executive director needs to have direct focus of the economic development policy. He then noted that by next meeting he would have an outline to present from a policy standpoint for economic development. He then suggested that they might need to bring in an economic development advisory panel to help with the focus in the absence of the executive director.

LONG-TERM LONI MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Dr. Guice told the Management Council that at the next meeting they would have elections of officers for Vice-Chair and Secretary Treasurer.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Dr. Guice mentioned that there would be a workshop March 16 and 17 at LaTech for faculty that are going to be involved with the grant.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the LONI Management Council, the meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

