

MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

January 13, 2009

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 13, 2009, in the Room 186 Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Les Guice called the meeting to order.

Council Members Present:

Les Guice, Chair
Mr. Charlie McMahan
Dr. Lee Bairnsfather
Dr. Steve Landry
Mr. Greg Speyrer
Dr. Joel Tohline
Dr. Paul Barron
Mr. Donnie Vandal
Ms. Connie Koury
Dr. Michael Stubblefield
Mr. Ed Driesse
Mr. Charlie McMahan

Council Members Absent:

Dr. Bradley Ebersole
Dr. Brad O'Hara
Dr. Laura Levy
Dr. Michael Ralph
Mr. Bob Fudickar
Dr. Jeffery Smith

Guests:

Lonnie Leger, LSU
Vickie McClinton, Board of Regents
Randy Walker, LSU
Daniel Katz, LSU
Carl Brandt, LSU
Brian Voss, LSU
David Lemoine, DOA
Honggao Lin, LSU

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2008 MINUTES

On a motion of Dr. Paul Barron, seconded by Dr. Steve Landry, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2008, LONI Management Council meeting.

Dr. Guice gave exception to the agenda and allowed Charlie McMahon to announce that he was leaving LSU and going to Tulane as Chief Technology Officer or VP of Information Technology. He will take Dr. Paul Barron's place as representative for Tulane on the LONI Management Council. No replacement has been found for the position at LSU.

Dr. Steve Landry ask Mr. Vandal to speak concerning the LONI budget that was originally set and the affect the current economic crisis might have on the LONI budget. Mr. Vandal said that originally Governor Blanco set 4 million for the LONI budget and then Governor Foster added additional 1 million for a total of 5 million. The spending is broken down by 1.8 million for Equipment and 3.2 million for Recurring expenses, ie, fiber leases and contract with LSU for the Executive Director and staff.

NLR BRIEFING

Dr. Les Guice began by asking Charlie McMahon, Executive Director LSU, to discuss issues involving the National LambdaRail (NLR).

Mr. McMahon stated that there have been two communications from Tom West (attached) mostly about Darkstrand and their inability to pay the 7.5 million dollar payment in December. NLR has renegotiated and extended their contract for an additional 50 days. Four scenarios' listed in letters, two are unacceptable and maybe only #2 would be acceptable if guaranteed of their assets. Question is whether we remain with NLR past July 31st, 2009. Internet 2 is the only viable source that could merge with NLR, only if Darkstrand fails to make payments and separates from NLR.

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Dan Katz informed everyone that the Terra-Grid contract was extended for 6 months and we have paid for that 6 months. That extends our involvement until March 2010. After that the next phase of Terra-Grid will start. We may be asked to extend once again in the next few months. There are thirteen Terra-Grid representatives across the nation, very distinctive honor for LONI to be a part of this group. Dan wrote an article concerning LONI that was published and gives Dan recognition along with LONI.

CHIEF RESEARCH ADVISOR/CHIEF SCIENTIST

Dr. Guice announced that Michael Khonsari was Director of the effort that allowed fifteen institutions to collaborate in three states, Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi on Cyber Infrastructure. It was a giant effort but will have great rewards in the future. This is an unprecedented event.

Honggao Lin with LSU gave a report on High Performance Computing (enclosed) that showed the advancements that the LONI program has made in this area.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR

There was no report at this time.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. McMahon referred to Lonnie Leger for a report. Mr. Leger reported that we have 84 customers connected to the LONI system and we are running at about 69% in the last three months. We are still working on the AT&T agreement, personnel changed so we had to wait to before sending in the agreement for them to look over. We should be close to getting the contract signed.

NEW BUSINESS

Strategic Planning meeting in November went well, enclosed are the key points that need to be addressed in this upcoming year. (1) Develop long-term funding model in line with needs and goals, (2) Define economic development for LONI, (3) Assess serving K-12 education-connect every school house-meet professors, and (4) Build Federal \$ and national prominence. To accomplish these goals Dr. Guice suggested that we form committees. On item number 1, Laura Levy will be the Chair with Donnie Vandal, Les Guice and Steve Landry on the

committee. On item number 2, Mike Stubblefield will Chair with Bob Fudickar and Brian Voss on the committee. On item number 3, Charlie McMahon will Chair, with Paul Barron, Joel Tohline, Lonnie Leger, Connie Koury, Dale Elder and Lee Barirnsfather on the committee.

MOTION TO AMEND BY-LAWS

Concerning the LONI By-Laws, Mr. Vandal made a motion to remove a sentence in section 3.1 entitled “Council Officers” beginning on Line 3 and continuing on Line 4 of the paragraph by deleting the sentence “No person shall serve in the same office for more than two consecutive terms.” Paul Barron seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Then Paul Barron made a motion to accept all three officers that had been serving which are, Dr. Les Guice Chairman, Laura Levy Vice Chair and Michael Stubblefield Secretary/Treasurer to serve another year.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Dr. Guice asked that we beef up our publicity by everyone sending in at least 1 publication a week concerning something good happening with LONI. Ms. Koury suggested that any new announcement concerning people getting accolades, awards or any recognition concerning LONI would be great publicity. Lonnie Leger said that he had been working with LPB on getting announcements on their network which will start once we get all the connections done. Cheryl Michelet, with the Board of Regents, will handle getting the publication to the various news organization as needed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before LONI Management Council, the meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.