

**MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

July 15, 2008

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 1:10 p.m., Tuesday, July 15, 2008, in the Board of Regents Conference Room, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Les Guice called the meeting to order.

Council Members Present:

Les Guice, Chair
Mr. Charlie McMahon
Dr. Lee Bairnsfather
Mr. Bob Fudickar
Dr. Paul Barron
Dr. Allen Doescher
Dr. Steve Landry
Dr. Ed Seidel
Mr. Greg Speyrer
Dr. Joel Tohline

Council Members Absent:

Dr. Bradley Ebersole
Dr. Brad O'Hara
Dr. Laura Levy
Mr. Donnie Vandal
Dr. Michael Ralph
Dr. Michael Stubblefield

Guests:

Lonnie Leger, LSU
Lee Kantrow, Kantrow, Spaht, Weaver, Blitzer
Adrienne Hodgkins, Katrow, Spaht, Weaver, Blitzer
Brett Brock, CISCO
Vickie McClinton, Board of Regents
Randy Walker, LSU
Cedric Banks, Board of Regents
Carl Brandt, LSU

APPROVAL OF MAY 13, 2008 MINUTES

On a motion of Dr. Joel Tohline, seconded by Dr. Paul Barron, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2008, LONI Management Council meeting.

NLR BRIEFING

Dr. Les Guice began the meeting with turning the meeting over to Connie Koury, General Counsel to the Board of Regents, to introduce the subject of NLR and where we stand, to everyone.

Ms. Koury said that there is a lot of activity going on nation wide and conversations concerning NLR with opinions from our people in the schools and universities, with the changes that are being made at NLR financially and with their by-laws. Ms. Koury ask that Charlie McMahon give the details of what has transpired and then we can have some discussion.

Charlie McMahon said that NLR'S financial status has not been good, so they have formed a partnership with Darkstrand which will own one half of its capacity. Mr. McMahon expressed positive and negative points with the venture. The positive being that the bandwidth could be sold to businesses and that their cash flow was substantially better. The negative being Darkstrand could sell their assets to someone else if the company does not do well and the biggest concern being the bylaws changing and them changing from a non-profit status to for-profit status and this not being what LONI was founded on. With this being said the question remains, Dr. Paul Barron ask, "Do we want to make the 1 million dollar payment by the end of July and continue using NLR"? "What would be LONI'S management councils recommendation be to the Board of Regents?" Ed Seidel asks, "Are there Legal ramifications if we pull out from NLR?" Dr. Paul Barron ask, "Are there companies that have the same services and ban width that we have with NLR?"

Mr. McMahon said in his opinion that Internet 2 and the others that are out there are capable of taking over the services needed for all of Higher Education campuses. Mr. McMahon also commented that we were not the only ones that were thinking about this and voted against the merger, CIC, Corneil, Duke, Texas and Louisiana all are considering the same options.

A motion was made by Dr. Paul Barron.....Not sure how to word this?

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Steve Landry via telephone asked Lonnie Leger to give the report. A hand out was given to everyone showing the connections that have been added and the ones still left to be done. There are 7 sites not serviced by AT&T which are causing some delays. AT&T will not accept AUP'S language and all efforts will be made to resolve this problem so the main connection between La. Tech and Monroe can be finished.

CHIEF RESEARCH ADVISOR/CHIEF SCIENTIST

Dr. Guice announced that Dr. Ed Seidel, Chief Research Advisor/Chief Scientist has been chosen to work for NSF, National Science Foundation and will have to leave the LONI MC. Dr. Seidel said, he was proud of what they had accomplished here in Louisiana and the LONI network was well respected across the nation. He looks forward to what's ahead and will need everyone's input on upcoming projects. Please let him know how OCI and NSF can help.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR

Mr. Bob Fudickar said he was thankful for Dr. Les Guice and Charlie McMahon and the LONI network for their help with the Department of Defense project. IBM will also give language for a report on dos and don'ts on unfinished business. The Cyber related proposal can not be seen because of very sensitive material.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Mr. Mike Abbiatti has resigned and taken a job in Arkansas and no replacement has been made so no report was given..

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. McMahon said he had no other reporting at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

LONI is hosting a conference in New Orleans and would hope that everyone would attend.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Dr. Les Guice said that he is working on getting the newsletter done but to date has found no one to take the project on but will continue working on it.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before LONI Management Council, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.