

MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

March 10, 2009

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 10, 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 McMahon
Dr. Lee Bairnsfather
Dr. Steve Landry
Mr. Greg Speyrer
Dr. Joel Tohline
Ms. Connie Koury
Mr. Ed Driesse
Mr. Bea Baldwin
Dr. Sally Clausen

Council Members Absent:

Dr. Bradley Ebersole
Dr. Michael Stubblefield
Dr. Laura Levy
Dr. Michael Ralph
Mr. Bob Fudickar
Mr. Donnie Vandal

Guests:

Lonnie Leger, LSU
Vickie McClinton, BoR
Randy Walker, LSU
Cheryl Michelet, BoR
Carl Brandt, LSU
David Lemoine, DOA
Sam White, LSU
Michael Lambert, LONI
Isaac Traylor, LSU
Beth Courtney, LPB
Randy Ward, LPB
Mike Gusky, DOA/OIT

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 13, 2009 MINUTES

On a motion from Steve Landry, seconded by Dr. Joel Tohline, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2009, LONI Management Council meeting.

Dr. Guice noted that Dr. Stubblefield with Southern is finding a replacement for Dr. Michael Ralph, Dr. Bea Baldwin is replacing Dr. Brad O'Hara from the UL System, and Dr. Bradley Ebersole with LCTCS will take the place of Dr. Jeffery Smith.

NLR BRIEFING

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

Mr. McMahon stated that Darkstrand did not make the December payment to NLR as expected. If no payment is made he doubts that NLR can survive. There are discussions with another company to exchange service for investment in NLR. If no payment is made then NLR probably has only 4 to 6 months cash left to stay in business. NLR is also going to lower their participation fee from \$ 700,000 to \$ 350,000 from each participant. Dr. Guice asked what the consequences would be to LONI if NLR does not survive and Mr. McMahon said that the solution would be to switch to Internet 2 and go from 1g to 10g and to handle our research area differently, but the impacts would be minimal. As far as Internet 2 activity it has very little new going on. Brian Voss has been asked to co-chair a joint infrastructure committee concerning security along with the Internet 2 governing committee. This is a very big compliment to Brian Voss and the benefit to LONI should be good.

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Steve Landry has asked that Lonnie Leger provide weekly summaries of updates by email to the LONI Council members concerning network transactions. Mr. Leger reported that

no drastic changes have been made, things are pretty quiet. Last year only 67 problems were reported the whole year. Mr. Leger reported that General Counsel Connie Koury is trying to set up a meeting between AT&T, SURA and LONI soon to resolve the AUP. There was a change in legal counsel at AT&T and that slowed things down. They have made contact with us so things should be moving soon towards a meeting, Mrs. Koury will let everyone know. Mr. McMahon said that he has been brokering a deal between Cisco, AT&T and Internet 2 that would benefit this and other agreements.

CHIEF RESEARCH ADVISOR/CHIEF SCIENTIST

Dr. Guice announced that McNeese State University invited us to help work with the Coshatta Indian Tribe on a project to record their dying indigenous language. They are gathering audio and video now and hope that other tribes can use as a model around the country. There are also a number of opportunities related to HPC and networking as part of the Federal Stimulus package and LONI staff are reviewing those opportunities for potential support of LONI goals.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR

There was no report at this time.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Sam White reported that the LONI clusters are operating well and are being upgraded. Queen Bee is running well and Randy Walker has fixed the chiller problems. "Painter" at Louisiana Tech is being installed and will be coming on line soon. Mr. McMahon asked about the Dell cluster at Southern University and Mr. Sam White reported that there is still work to be done, they are in the final stages of the electrical lines and two weeks ago he went there and gave them a list of things that needed to be done that is being worked on as we speak. Mr. McMahon also reported that the IBM machines were 5 years old and Dell in 3 years old and next year there will be no warranty. He is not too worried about the IBM machines but Dell would cost too much to fix or extend the warranty.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ed Driesse asked if there was any response to the stimulus package as of yet? Dr. Guice explained that LONI should have their lists ready so that if any of the money is allocated towards them they have the projects ready. Everyone is uncertain about the rules and consequences the stimulus money will have tied to it.

Dr. Guice introduced Dr. Bea Baldwin who replaced Dr. Brad O'Hara from the UL System on the management council. He reported that a search has been under way for an executive director and Dr. Joel Tohline has accepted as interim director. Dr. Guice stated that the scope of the job was narrowed so that there would be minimal impacts on Dr. Tohline's on-going activities at LSU. Dr. Tohline will serve as liaison between LSU and the LONI Mgt. Council and oversee the budget and research projects between the two. Dr. Tohline gave a short background of himself to let the new faces on the board understand why he was chosen. He is glad Mr. McMahon is staying on the council in his new role at Tulane; they have been working together for sometime. Dr. Tohline's main concern right now is to find a replacement for Dr. Ed Siedel who works for NSF now, so far they have interviewed two and he is leaving in just a minute to interview a third.

OLD BUSINESS

In the last meeting three committees were formed, Dr. Laura Levy to chair the long term funding model, Michael Stubblefield to chair economic development and Mr. McMahon to chair the K-12 initiative. Mr. McMahon reported that he has been working with Pastorek's office concerning the E-Rate program which will operate statewide and vendors will use LONI as their backbone.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Dr. Guice thanked Cheryl Michelet for working with LONI on current and future press releases. He reminded everyone that he wanted news from them each week and especially needs something from ULL and LCTCS. The idea is to let everyone know how important LONI is to the state and the education world. Beth Courtney with LPB, said they will join in to let everyone know that LONI is a national model to all of us on conservation. People are beginning to talk about us! Lonnie Leger attended and spoke at the LIGO conference on research and education and is working on the LONI website re-design. Dr. Guice noted that there will be a "Request for

Proposals” coming out from LA EPSCOR for a Research Infrastructure Improvement Competition.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before LONI Management Council, the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.