

**MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

March 11, 2008

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, March 11, 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. Greg Speyrer
Dr. Ed Seidel
Dr. Paul Barron (Audio)
Dr. Joel Tohline
Dr. Lee Bairnsfather
Mr. Rizwan Ahmed

Council Members Absent:

Mr. Bob Fudickar
Dr. Steve Landry
Mr. Donald Vandal
Dr. Michael Stubblefield
Dr. Brad O'Hara
Dr. Laura Levy
Dr. Jeffery Smith
Dr. Michael Ralph

Executive Director:

Mr. Charlie McMahon

Guests:

Randy Walker, DOA
Dan Katz, LSU
Brian D. Voss, LSU
Lonnie Leger, LSU
Henry Glade, Qwest
Darrell Monette, Qwest
Wes Stephens, Qwest
Devin Broome, ULS

Introduction of Vickie McClinton, Board of Regents, Contract Coordinator in Finance.

NLR BRIEFING

Dr. Les Guice began by asking Mr. Charlie McMahon to give an update on NLR. Mr. McMahon said that NLR is struggling with its finances. The Regents have one more payment in July of this year. Half the members have made their final payment and the other half will make final payments at the end of July. There are few members that have said they would contribute a million dollars, so it's safe to say they will have enough money for one more year of operation. There are plans to upgrade Cisco equipment within 18 months, but with the money NLR has now NLR can not upgrade equipment out of cash flow. NLR is looking for other ways to raise money. Decision to make another payment will come up at the next board meeting but we will not make a commitment until we see whether NLR will continue.

Internet 2 is not talking about any merger at this time. Discussion is on going about its continuing to do business with the financial state they are in. NLR people are hanging around trying to get into Internet 2, but neither may know until more information comes out. Dr. Guice asked Brian Voss to project fees for Internet 2 and Mr. Voss said he feels they will cut back on people and programs. If NLR dissolves, then Internet 2 might be shaky. LLC invested in NLR early on and board could vote to sell assets to anyone or could vote to give to Internet 2.

Dr. Guice and Dr. Mike Khonsari went to the EPSCoR Coalition meeting in Washington. LONI is on everyone's mind. Several NSF directors made positive comments about LONI. Mentioned that NSF thought that we should do a case study on LONI that the NSF could use. Dr. Guice said that Dan Adkins announced the anticipated RII Track 2 competition. The RFP comes out this summer with proposals due date in September.

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Charlie McMahon represented Dr. Steve Landry. He noted that we have over a 150,000 students connected to LONI. We picked up a 3rd internet drain. We will soon be connecting Southeastern and ULL-Monroe. More equipment is being ordered for Northwestern. Grambling, Nichols, LSU-A, LSU-AP, SU-S have all expressed interests in connecting with LONI and that will be done by Metro Ethernet. The issues are still the same, as we struggle to connect Jackson to LSU. It should be done by Easter and will close the loop from Monroe to Baton Rouge. This

is work we will have to do ourselves, about \$300,000 proposal that we are working with Donnie on for approval. Paul Barron asked if we can connect Charter schools connect with the LONI network directly instead of behind a school district. We must check with AT&T first. Charter schools are qualified to use E-Rate funding.

CHIEF RESEARCH ADVISOR/CHIEF SCIENTIST

Ed Seidel noted that both NLR and Internet 2 want him on the board. LONI Joined Teragrid in February. Half of Queen Bee is reserved for local users and the other half nationally. People get to use the national facility for free. Researchers should learn about Queen-Bee and know that you are using a national facility. The scientists are there to facilitate projects on the LONI environment. There are currently 12 faculty searches and Dr. Seidel is helping where he can. Dr. Seidel commented about the NSF EPSCoR RII Cybertools project, a twelve million dollar project. NSF wants training within a year on the tools that we are developing.

Dr. Seidel gave a talk in New Orleans at the Health Sciences Center. Many came and wanted to know about LONI and how it could support biomedical research. He received slides from Chris Johnson from Utah on biomedical research they are doing. They would like a workshop on biomedical research all the way to clinical studies. This is being done all over the nation and we could benefit from others that are already using these techniques in the field.

The other thing is using the LONI to video conference across the state to teach classes. Many opportunities out there, last year a school in Chicago teamed up with Louisiana to design video games. It was so successful that they are distributing between the two states. Dr. Seidel suggested that we should work with the Board of Regents to develop the best classes across the state.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR

Bob Fudicaker got an invitation to go see the NASA launch so will not be here to give a report.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

No updates from Mike Abbatti.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. McMahon had no further report to add.

NEW BUSINESS

Randy Walker commented that the final stages for the emergency power for the Queen Bee have been tested. Entergy tested the ISB by accident when the north part of capital complex was without power. None of our computer equipment in the ISB building saw even a glitch including the Queen Bee.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Dr. Guice asked if everyone would like to participate in a “LONI DAY” at the Capitol, EPSCOR would participate also. Kevin Hardy said if we commit to bring equipment and people then you may reach many of the new legislators that have never heard of LONI. Great publicity opportunity. Can we reach individual legislators to give them info for them to take back to there constituents at home? Use Plasma TV, slide shows, kids involved, medical connections to spur interest. Mike Khonsari is exploring a date for this. We may get a planning committee together. We will email it out to this group to get universities involved.

Need everyone to send visual high resolution pictures to put on wall and to use in newsletters and brochures.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before LONI Management Council, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.