

## MINUTES

### LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL March 15, 2005

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council met at 2:09 p.m., Tuesday, March 15, 2005, in the Napoleon Bonaparte Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor in the Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Les Guice called the meeting to order. Mr. Dave Nicklas, Secretary/Treasurer, called the roll and a quorum was established.

#### **Council Members Present:**

Les Guice, Chair  
John Lawson, Vice Chair  
David Nicklas, Secretary/Treasurer  
Steve Landry  
Kenneth Maloney  
Michael Stubblefield  
Joel Tohline  
Victor Ukpolo  
Donald Vandal

#### **Council Members Absent:**

Duane Blumberg  
Laura Levy  
Ed Seidel  
Harold Silverman  
Jeffery Smith

#### **Guests:**

Mike Abbiatti, Board of Regents  
Alan Aparicio, Global Data Systems  
Lori Brannon, Brannon & Associates  
David Crockett, IBM  
Kyle Galusha, Cisco  
Glenn Lambert, Global Data Systems  
Patrick Landry, UL Lafayette  
Lonnie Leger, Board of Regents  
Angie Welch, IBM

#### APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2005, MINUTES

**On motion of Mr. Dave Nicklas, seconded by Dr. Steve Landry, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2005, LONI Management Council meeting**

**NLR AND LONI MC LEADERSHIP BRIEFING**

Mr. Mike Abbiatti began by telling the committee that the actual deployment schedule shows Louisiana's node being in place in July and being fully operational in August. The reason the node was pushed back was because of re-negotiations IRU's and some actual production issues on equipment from Cisco. NLR board initiated a gap loan to purchase the equipment for the southern route and it has been fully instituted and executed and equipment is in production. Two teams have been dispatched to begin the deployment phase. Mr. Abbiatti also stated that National Lambda Rail (NLR) is having the same discussions that the MC is having in terms of deployment, staffing plans, and long term management. Next, Mr. Abbiatti told the council that when NLR is mentioned Louisiana is mentioned. In addition, he discussed that LONI has taken on the most complex task in terms of a network of this size.

Next, Dr. Guice told the Council that the team headed by Dr. Laura Levy is nearing completion on the draft of the bylaws and that they will hopefully be ready to bring to the next meeting.

**CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

Chief Technical Advisor Dr. Steve Landry began by telling the council that things are not as far along as they would hope with the bids. He noted that there are several gaps in the fiber infrastructure bids and that there had been several variations in design to consider. Currently, he and others are working to modify the Request for Proposals (RFP) to close the gaps in the infrastructure. In addition, he noted that some bids received were disqualified because of administrative or technical reasons. Next, Dr. Landry told the Council that no bids were received for the route between Lafayette and

New Orleans. Dr. Landry indicated that he should have more information in the next couple of weeks. Next, he stated that LONI would likely need to go out for bids if they selected to bundle the electronics and the vendor with services. Also, it was discussed that RFP should characterize the optical equipment to be used in the network and layer different levels service.

Next, Dr. Guice gave the update for the Chief Research Advisor Dr. Ed. Seidel in his absence. It was mentioned that a number of campuses were involved in a vendor presentation for high performance computing recently at the Lod Cook Center on LSU's Campus. Presentations were made by SGI, HP, Team HBC, IBM, Sun Microsystems, and Dell. He also stated that the end of this year is a hot time for putting together clusters. Next, he told the Council that there is interest from other entities such as Southern Mississippi, Texas and NASA in connecting to LONI and that they need to be informed of the requirements for participation.

Next, Dr. Guice gave an update for the Chief Economic Development Advisor in his absence. He told the Council that a team would be formed to put together the cost structures and requirements for some of the other participants to come into LONI.

#### LONG-TERM LONI MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Dr. Guice told the Council that they needed to focus on the staffing plan for LONI and that he believes the real need right now is for permanent network engineers who could work in deployment and operation of LONI. After some discussion about the LONI Director it was noted by Mr. Donald Vandal that the LONI Director position is not ready to be filled until there is some certainty about the cost of implementing the LONI project. Next, the following motion was made.

MOTION

**On a motion of Dr. Lawson and seconded by Dave Nicklas, the Council moved to request the Board of Regents to hire two additional full time network engineers for LONI.**

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Guice told the Council that it is important for each of the campuses to be identifying the senior leaders that could lead major center type of grant efforts. Some of these faculty will need to be computer scientists but for some projects the senior leaders could be in other disciplines.

Because of conflicting activities, the MC agreed to cancel the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>. With no objection the meeting was rescheduled.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Next, Dr. Guice told the Council that Kevin Hardy had submitted a proposal to purchase a ten foot display to put out at conferences such as Governor's Day and the upcoming Lafayette conference. Dr. Guice also stated the need to get the display in hand for these public events and future ones. The cost is approximately three thousand dollars for the display itself and two thousand dollars for the graphics on the display. It was also noted that the graphics can be regenerated yearly or every other year as needed.

MOTION

**On a motion of Dr. Landry and seconded by Dr. Ukpolo, the Council approved the purchase of the ten foot display that Kevin Hardy proposed.**

ADJOURNMENT

**There being no further business to come before the LONI Management Council, on motion of Chair Guice, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, the meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.**



