MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

February 14, 2023

The Louisiana Optical Network Infrastructure (LONI) Management Council (MC) met as scheduled to conduct its appointed mission at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 14, 2023, in the Regent Board Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA. Chair Gabriel Fagbeyiro called the meeting to order.

I.   ROLL CALL

Ms. Michelle Brandon called the roll, and a quorum was established by those present.

Council Members:	Representing	Present / Absent
Kenneth Boe	LSU System	Present
Clarence Copeland	LETA/LPB	Present
Gabriel Fagbeyiro	SU System	Present
Gene Fields	UL System	Present
Paul Helton	LED	Present
Thomas Hoover	UL System	Present
Richard Howze	DOA	Present
Janarthanan Jayawickramarajah	Tulane University	Present
Matthew LaBruyere	Board of Regents	Present
Lonnie Leger	LONI	Present
Nick Pitre	LCTCS	Absent
Ramu Ramachandran	UL System	Present
Ram Ramanujam	LSU System	Present
Eric Setz	LCTCS	Present
Francesca Mellieon-Williams	SU System	Present
Noel Wong	Tulane University	Present
Craig Woolley	LSU System	Present
** Denotes two consecutive absences *** Denotes three or more consecutive absences		

II. SECRETARY REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Lonnie Leger, second by Mr. Ramu Ramachandran, the LONI Management Council unanimously voted to accept the draft minutes as provided without change from the Council's Meeting on February 14, 2023, previously distributed to the Council via email without reading it aloud during the meeting.

III. CHAIR BUSINESS

a. Remarks
1. Chair Gabriel Fagbeyiro introduced the newest Council members' representatives; Tom Hoover, ULS CIO, and La Tech University CIO representing the University of Louisiana System (ULS); Nick Pitre, Director of IT at South Louisiana Community College, representing the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), Janarthanan Jayawickramarajah, Associate Dean of Research, School of Science and Engineering at Tulane University, representing Tulane University, and Francesca Mellieon-Williams, Faculty Member, Department of Science and Math Education (SMED) at Southern University, representing the Southern University System.

2. Chair Fagbeyiro acknowledged it is a privilege to be selected as Chair and to serve the Council in this capacity. He thanked former Chair Ramu Ramachandran for his leadership and progress while in his role. Chair Fagbeyiro informed the Council that he would be relying on their collective and individual skills to provide a service to the State of Louisiana by taking ownership to ensure LONI continues to provide exemplary service to its

members. In addition, Chair Fagbeyiro looks forward to the members'
commitment and participation in our proceedings to support a quorum at each
meeting to continue the progress made by others before us.

3. Chair Fagbeyiro covered the remaining Secretary officer vacancy and asked for
nominations from the Council, then hearing none nominated Ms. Francesca
Mellieon-Williams to the officer position.

4. **On a motion by Chair Gabriel Fagbeyiro, second by Mr. Lonnie Leger, the
LONI Management Council unanimously voted to accept the nomination of
Ms. Francesca Mellieon-Williams to the position of Secretary starting
immediately with a term ending December 31, 2024.**

5. **Chair Fagbeyiro requested that Ramu Ramachandran rejoin the
Nomination Committee with Gene Field and Ram Ramanujam, which Mr.
Ramachandran accepted.**

IV. <u>LONI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</u>

a. 2023 Work Plan
Executive Director Lonnie Leger presented his 2023 Work Plan with four goals; 1)
Publish a Strategic Plan with a 3 to 5-year horizon, 2) Invest in mutually beneficial
endeavors which bring member value and strengthen LONI's portfolio, 3) Deploy
our 4th Generation Network and HPC Cyberinfrastructure, and 4) Deploy the LONI
SOCaaS offering.

**On a motion by Mr. Lonnie Leger, second by Mr. Kenneth Boe, the LONI
Management Council unanimously voted to accept the Executive Director's
Work Plan for 2023.**

Mr. Noel Wong asked that we look to participate in aggregate purchasing power for CrowdStrike. Mr. Leger responded that it's LONI position to offer favorable services and pricing to all LONI Members, including CrowdStrike.

b.   Events and News
Mr. Leger informed the Council that Infinera Corporation released a press release and a short video on our acquisition and pending rollout of their 400G optical platform. Mr. Leger reminded the Council of the community-wide call on Friday, February 17. Mr. Leger informed the Council that the LONI Summit was confirmed at Grambling State University on March 15-16.

c.   Strategic/Business Plan Update
Under the Strategic Plan item, Mr. Leger informed the Council that a committee would soon be formed to collect input as part of our framework to submit a draft document to Commissioner Reed this summer.

d.   PaaS Update
Under the PaaS Update item, Mr. Leger reiterated how he believed the LONI Network is amid a paradigm shift as significant as the original funding request to create the network with the scope of funding proposed to the 2022 Legislative Session. Mr. Leger repeated the potential need for leadership from this Council as it was back in 2005 to organize the membership around this theme. Mr. Leger presented a condensed slide displaying the offering of the LONI SOCaaS. Mr. Leger reported on the progress of receiving the outstanding signed FY24 Service Orders while communicating his delight in receiving the remainder of FY23 annual subscription membership payments.

e.   HPC Quarterly Update

Under the High-Performance Computing (HPC) Quarterly Update item, Mr. Leger informed the Council that the LONI Staff worked with LSU to issue a PO for the 4th generation in our QB series – QB4. QB4 will have 485 regular compute nodes, 62 GPU nodes, and 6 PB of storage. We anticipate receiving delivery dates in time to announce at the next LONI MC meeting, along with some additional updates.

f. Network Quarterly Update

Under the Network Quarterly Update item, Mr. Gary Mumphrey provided the Council with his update on projects in the service design phase. In contrast, Mr. Lance Neal updated projects in the service transition and operations phase. Mr. Leger informed the Council it was his goal to communicate these details in advance to offer the Council to ask these gentlemen questions formally or informally during our time together without having to read or comment on every bullet. Being that the Council asked no questions, Mr. Leger informed the Council that the seven (7) members who applied for the FY23 RHC were fully funded from their application, and eighteen (18) members are working to apply for the FY24 RHC. Mr. Leger reinforced that eligible entities to apply for RHC are those organizations that provide healthcare instruction equally to those who offer typical healthcare. Mr. Thomas Hoover asked how long the RHC program has existed and the surety for funding. The RHC has been a funded program for nearly as long as Erate, and funding is allocated according to need, measured through the application process. Mr. Leger presented the typical LONI Working Group participation bar chart. He reminded the Council that if anyone does not like where their campuses are ranked in the graphic, they should contact LONI to help address better participation.

g. Research Opportunities

Under the Research Opportunities item, Mr. Leger informed the Council of his takeaways from the 4NRP Workshop aligned with many of the themes proposed in our Midscale RI-1 proposal. Mr. Leger informed the Council of seven (7) focus areas for funding under the NSF CC* solicitation. Mr. Leger relayed his conversation and thoughts from his conversation with Kevin Thompson, NSF CISE/OAC Program Director, on the importance of Project Management and the tighter integration between the EPSCoR and Infrastructure funding opportunities at NSF. Mr. Ramu Ramachandran informed the Council about a new funding program at NSF called Engines and Louisiana's three submissions, with one being my LSU and two from LaTech, to that opportunity.

V. <u>CHIEF ADVISORS REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS</u>

a. Chief Scientist

1. Ram Ramanujam spoke about how QB4 will add significant capacity to LONI HPC resource allocation as well as the potential support for storage infrastructure for better access and data management. We recognize that data management requires significant user education and responsibility. How could what model be funded at LONI that could reduce the load on the researchers regarding data management?

b. Chief Technology Advisor

Gene Fields reported that the working group participation and commented on the progress of the graph flattening out at the top representing strong engagement but at the same time, highlighted the bottom half is just as flat with no growth in

participation and challenged the Council members to increase the investment of their organization's involvement in these invaluable groups.

    c.   Chief Economic Development Advisor

        1.   Mr. Paul Helton informed the Council that NASA announced an initiative they are monitoring where they want to interconnect Johnson, Michoud, Stennis, Marshal, and Kennedy and how that could be an opportunity for Space Tec, Advanced Manufacturing in Louisiana.

    d.   Chief Cybersecurity Advisor

        1.   Craig Woolley reported that LSU is LONI's customer for its SOCaaS. Splunk was selected as the SIEM and SOAR with a 24x7 monitoring and response service performed by TekStream. LONI's SOCaaS will allow a hybrid model with an always-on service from TekStream with the option for students to be employed by their institution to stand up their own local SOC whom TekStream trains to take on appropriate roles for that institution's talent development and risk profile. We are leveraging the aggregate purchasing power of LONI to deliver a cost-effective solution. LSU plans to go live with the service on Friday, April 6th. Shortly afterward, LSU will organize and define a process to onboard students for deployment sometime this fall. Any incidents closed by a student will reflect a credit from TekStream that will be passed along to the institution. In addition, LONI and LSU plan to develop an overall practice whereby other institutions can take our best practice so that institutions don't have to recreate this local SOC environment from scratch every time. There was a healthy exchange of the foreseen lack of security skill positions across higher

education and how we would advocate for improving that situation with positions and automation.

VI.   OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

a.   Mr. Thomas Hoover introduced the idea of using one-time money to fill the gap between applying for RHC and receiving reimbursement. Mr. Matthew LaBruyere responded by stating that Regents accepts all funding requests from the system and considers how to position them as a single to the Administration.

VII.   ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gabriel Fagbeyiro acknowledged Chair-Elect Mr. Kenneth Boe, Newly elected Secretary Ms. Francesca Mellieon-Williams, and all the new Council Members charging all to keep up their attendance in the future as this meeting. Mr. Lonnie Leger thanked the members for their attention, partnership, and being a friend. There being no further business to come before the LONI Executive Management Council, Mr. Lonnie Leger motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ramu Ramachandran, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.