

**MINUTES**  
**LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

May 16, 2023

The Louisiana Optical Network Infrastructure (LONI) Management Council (MC) met as scheduled to conduct its appointed mission at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 16, 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 at 1:32pm by those present.

<u>Council Members:</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present / Absent</u>
Kenneth Boe	LSU System	Present
Clarence Copeland	LETA/LPB	Absent
Gabriel Fagbeyiro	SU System	Present
Gene Fields	UL System	Present
Paul Helton	LED	Absent
Thomas Hoover	UL System	Present
Richard Howze	DOA	Present
Janarthanan Jayawickramarajah	Tulane University	Absent
Matthew LaBruyere	Board of Regents	Present
Lonnie Leger	LONI	Present
Nick Pitre	LCTCS	Present
Ramu Ramachandran	UL System	Present
Ram Ramanujam	LSU System	Present
Eric Setz	LCTCS	Present
Francesca Mellieon-Williams	SU System	Present
Noel Wong	Tulane University	Absent
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  
Chair Gabriel Fagbeyiro welcomed the members to another Council meeting, expressing his gratitude for everyone's attendance.

IV. LONI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- a. 2023 Work Plan  
Executive Director Lonnie Leger provided the Council an update on the 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.
- b. Events and News  
Mr. Leger mentioned a recent LSU press release regarding our Security Operations Center. He also reminded the Council about the community-wide call on Thursday, May 18. Mr. Leger shared that the 2023 LONI Scientific Computing Bootcamp is scheduled for May 25-26 and again on May 29-30, 2023. Mr. Leger updated the Council on their yearly collaboration with The Quilt, focusing on showcasing computational research utilizing LONI HPC resources. The current year's article, titled "LONI enables research powered by Artificial Intelligence and deep learning,"

highlights the significance of our Queen Bee cluster for Dr. Morra, an associate professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. This article was prominently featured in the [2023 Quilt Circle](#), a national membership publication by The Quilt. Mr. Leger highlighted the achievements of the recent 2023 LONI Summit held at Eddie G. Robinson Museum, which saw participation from 61 attendees representing all four public higher education systems, LAICU, K12, and the State government. He extended his appreciation to the Grambling State University team for their integral role as the event's host member. Additionally, he expressed gratitude to the presenters, participants, vendors, and LONI staff, whose contributions played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the Summit.

c. Strategic/Business Plan Update

Under the Strategic Plan item, Mr. Leger informed the Council that the Strategic Planning Committee intends to hold a few additional virtual meetings to further refine the outcomes of the in-person workshop held in April. In parallel, Mr. Leger will seek specific feedback from LED with the assistance of Paul Helton and the current and future LONI HPC user base with Ramu Ramachandran's assistance. The committee's goal is to produce a draft document, which is anticipated to be presented to Commissioner Reed later this summer. Gene Fields extended commendations to the LONI and LSU staff on the planning process and in-person workshop. Craig Woolley expressed his appreciation for the committee's time and valuable input into the process.

d. PaaS Update

Under the PaaS Update item, Mr. Leger provided an update on the progress and anticipated timeline for onboarding public institutions with our SOCaaS.

Specifically, he reported that the LONI Network went live with the service on April 3<sup>rd</sup> followed by LSU on April 6<sup>th</sup>. LSUHSC-NO and LSUS are planned to be onboarded with the service in July. Matthew LaBruyere provided the Council with an update on the Legislative activity regarding the requested funding for the SOCaaS.

The Governor's executive budget requested \$7.5 million which is still intact halfway through the legislative session. On the supplemental appropriations front, a bill is working its way through the session to fund \$3.8 million for CrowdStrike EDR for all public higher education institutions. Barbara Goodson, an honored guest, shared her efforts to secure additional funding for state-covered expenses related to recent cyber threat mitigation on several of our public institutions. Mr. LaBruyere emphasized that the \$7.5 million is recurring funding, but the \$3.8 million is one-time funding. He clarified that Regents would be seeking both the \$7.5 million and \$3.8 million in their FY25 budget request to DOA. MMr. Leger notified the Council that as of April 5, 2023, we had achieved a 100% response rate, with all members having signed and returned their FY24 PaaS Subscription Membership Service Order.

e. HPC Quarterly Update

Under the High-Performance Computing (HPC) Quarterly Update item, Mr. Leger informed the Council that the LONI Staff anticipates the delivery of QB4 to start arriving in July followed by construction starting in August. We still anticipate it will take most of the remaining of this year to bring QB4 up to full production

capacity. He noted that the process of achieving full production capacity for QB4 is projected to span most of this year. While QB3 will remain fully operational, temporary scheduled maintenance windows are anticipated due to the integration of new transformers and cooling distribution infrastructure. At the same time, the LONI Staff will continue to decommission QB2 to make way for QB4. There was a conversation among a few Council members on the impacts of future QB systems to the power and cooling infrastructure which was previously brought to the attention of the OTS Staff at the ISB and reiterated during this time. The LONI Resource Allocation Committee will be called upon to adjust the number of SU per quarter that can be made available for research computation projects with the addition of QB4 and the subtraction of QB2.

f. Network Quarterly Update

Under the Network Quarterly Update item, Mr. Leger provided the Council with an update on projects in the service design phase. He reported that the LONI Staff is actively collaborating with Cisco professional services to address any remaining transition complications stemming from the shift to Cisco from other competitors. Furthermore, the team has initiated field commissioning for the Cisco backbone and managed-router hardware to facilitate 100 Gbps connectivity. Mr. Leger also emphasized the challenges tied to evaluating bids for Phase-3 Fiber Construction, underscoring the ongoing collaboration with LSU Procurement on this intricate matter. Mr. Leger informed the Council that the seven (7) members who applied for the FY23 RHC were fully funded from their application with an anticipated disbursement of approximately \$610.950 while sixteen (16) members have applied

for the FY24 RHC program with a potential reimbursement of approximately \$6 million. Mr. Leger expressed that the RHC program is a solid mechanism for all degree-granted institutions to find financial assistance for LONI's bundled service model with broadband connectivity and strongly encouraged all institutions to apply to the program. Mr. Leger addressed Craig Woolley's question about whether the funding award was based upon a single institution or all the institutions as a cohort with Mr. Leger answering that the eligibility for reimbursement is determined by an institutions program eligibility and eligible broadband bundled service model offered by LONI. 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 reminded the Council of LONI's involvement with five researchers at LSU in their \$18 million proposal submission to the NSF Mid-Scale solicitation on May 5th. Additionally, Mr. Leger reminded everyone of the proposal submission to the NSF CC\* focus area 5 and 6 on March 1<sup>st</sup> and the pursuit with Grambling and La Tech for a proposal submission under focus area 2 due on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ramu Ramachandran informed the Council about a new funding program at NSF called Engines Type 2 and Louisiana's three submissions, with one being from LSU and two from LaTech, to that opportunity.

V. CHIEF ADVISORS REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Chief Scientist

Mr. Ram Ramanujam had no updates at this time.

b. Chief Technology Advisor

Mr. 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 once again challenged the Council members to increase the investment of their organization's involvement in these invaluable groups.

c. Chief Economic Development Advisor

Mr. Paul Helton was unable to attend the meeting.

d. Chief Cybersecurity Advisor

Mr. Craig Woolley reported how LSU is excited about going live with the LONI SOCaaS offering. He informed the Council we are still on target to onboard students in the SOC this coming fall semester. Presently, the service encompasses SIEM and SOAR capabilities with continuous 24x7 monitoring and response, which is being fine-tuned in tandem with ongoing process refinements and future engagement strategies with member institutions. The SOC is set to be staffed by students from 8am to 8pm, Monday through Friday, while TekStream, our industry partner, ensures an always-on service with round-the-clock escalation and proactive support. This collaborative approach amplifies our cyber protection and augments visibility into cyber-related matters. Mr. Woolley expressed deep appreciation for the partnership between LSU and the LONI Staff, highlighting LONI's pivotal role in rendering the service accessible and cost-effective for all public higher education institutions.

VI. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business taken up.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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. Gene Fields motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.