

Approved
November 8, 2011

**MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

September 13, 2011

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 13, 2011, in the Iowa Room (Room No. 153), 1st floor, Claiborne Office Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. Charlie McMahon, Chair of the LONI Management Council, called the meeting to order. A roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Council Members Present:

Mike Asoodeh
Ed Driesse
Laura Levy
Beth Courtney
Brian Voss
Ed Driesse
Donnie Vandal
Michael Stubblefield
Todd Barre
Joel Tohline
Rachel Vincent-Finley
Lee Bairnsfather
Thomas Lovince
Les Guice
Gene Fields

Council Members Absent:

Bob Fudickar
Brian Nichols
Eric Setz

Guest:

Lonnie Leger, LSU
Pat Cavell, CISCo
Randy Ward, LPB/LETA
Brett Brock, CISCO
Blake Gonzales, Dell
David Lemoine, DOA/OCS
Randy Walker, DOA
Sam White, LSU

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2011 MINUTES

On a motion from Dr. Laura Levy, seconded by Dr. Lee Bairnsfather, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2011 LONI Management Council meeting.

NLR AND INTERNET 2 UPDATES

Mr. Charlie McMahon asked Mr. Vandal to give an update on NLR. Mr. Vandal shared with the council a recent press release from the Chan Soon-Shiong Institute for Advanced Health (CSS Institute) which announced a major milestone in its establishment of a secure “medical information superhighway” with its utilization of the National LambdaRail network. The CSS Institute has assumed financial responsibility for the National LambdaRail and the CSS Institute intends to put the significant capacity of the NLR at the disposal of genomic and proteomic researchers, connecting them with each other and with supercomputing capabilities, and ultimately with health care providers. NLR will continue to serve big science projects such as the work with the Large Hadron Collider and with major laboratories of federal agencies such as NASA and NIH. The CSS Institute’s financial commitment, estimated to amount to more than \$100 million, is enabling NLR to embark on substantial upgrades to its entire network. The focus on health will be served by new connections with genome sequencing centers around the United States, and with the CSS Institute’s newly opened data centers and supercomputer in Phoenix, Arizona, which are dedicated to health data.

With respect to Internet 2 activities and developments, it will be deploying some new routes, including one through Mississippi with an access point to be established in Jackson, Mississippi. LONI staff has been involved in discussions regarding the opportunities this will provide LONI’s Mississippi participants, and there could be some financial implications for LONI as these developments unfold. Currently, the Mississippi institutions collectively

contribute \$200,000 annually toward LONI's Internet 2 connector and membership fees, and that would cease if Mississippi becomes an Internet 2 connector itself. There could also be an effect on commodity internet service currently provided the Mississippi institutions, which could also have a financial impact on LONI operations. These issues have been shared with Board of Regents staff so that they are aware of the potential financial impact of these developments. Timing remains uncertain, but it is believed that no significant changes will occur until at least FY 2012-13.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Joel Tohline, the Chief Scientific Advisor for the council, introduced Dr. Randy Hall, a professor of Chemistry at LSU and a principal in the LA-SiGMA grant, to provide the council a presentation on the project. The Louisiana Alliance for Simulation-Guided Materials Applications (LA-SiGMA) is a collaboration by Louisiana State University (the lead institution), Grambling State University, Louisiana Tech University, University of New Orleans, Southern University at Baton Rouge, Tulane University, and Xavier University to form a highly focused statewide research consortium. The goal of this five-year project is to position the State to compete for and secure a federally funded center of excellence in Louisiana. The project will accomplish this by leveraging existing statewide computational, experimental, and intellectual assets, particularly those resulting from the state's investment in LONI and its related supercomputer and cyberinfrastructure capacity.

LA-SiGMA will create a statewide research and education program focusing on: (1) electronic materials, (2) energy materials, and (3) biomolecular materials. Within the overall theme of "computational materials science," these science drivers emerged as clear areas of strength through a statewide solicitation that yielded over forty multi-institutional whitepapers from teams of researchers. The majority of these teams included computational and experimental

researchers, providing a strong foundation for the proposed research program that relies on close collaboration between theorists, computational scientists, and experimentalists. The Alliance capitalizes on the jurisdiction's cyberinfrastructure (CI) and past investments in experimental and computational materials science. Program objectives include: building the next generation of experimentally validated formalisms, algorithms, and codes for multi-scale materials simulations; implementing them on present and next generation supercomputers; and educating the next generation of a highly skilled workforce of materials scientists and engineers.

The value added by these efforts is a major transformation of education, research, and workforce development in the State with strong multi-institutional partnerships brought together to integrate:

- An education plan that includes new materials science graduate courses delivered across the State;
- Well-developed relationships between research universities, two-year colleges, and the K-12 community through ongoing outreach efforts;
- Strong partnerships between Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), two-year colleges, and other universities in the State;
- Involvement of predominantly undergraduate institutions as partners in research;
- A team focused on training students and researchers to fully utilize the next generation cyberinfrastructure (CI);
- Multifaceted diversity, workforce development, and external engagement plans including relationships with industries through researchers, industry liaisons, and the State EPSCoR Committee; and
- Rigorous evaluation and assessment by an external evaluator, and feedback through an External Review Board (ERB) to ensure that goals and objectives of the project are met.

The council applauded Dr. Hall for his impressive presentation and Mr. McMahon reminded everyone that projects such as LA-SiGMA were the principle reason and purpose of the State's investment in the LONI network and supercomputing capability.

Mr. Gene Fields, the Chief Technology Advisor to the council, then reminded the council members that at the last LONI council meeting he had been charged with putting together a group to look at the recently promulgated NSF Data Management Plan requirements applicable

to NSF research grants and assessing how those requirements could be addressed using some form of centralized approach. There have been two meetings so far of the group, the first occurring on September 1st and conducted by video conference. In that meeting there was discussion of the group's charge and mission, agreement on pursuing some vendor presentations at the next meeting as well as compiling information on how other institutions were addressing these issues, exploring funding models and options, and it was further agreed the group would meet again prior to the next Management Council meeting.

The group had a second meeting this morning in which a couple of vendors made presentations on their products and it was agreed there would be another meeting of the group soon to consider options and further direction.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Vandal asked Mr. Lonnie Leger, Director of Networking, to provide the council an update on developments with the network and network operations. Mr. Leger referred the council to the standard network report, but indicated that the biggest challenge lately has been recruiting and retaining good qualified staff. There are currently two LONI staff engineering positions open and it has been difficult to identify and secure applicants who meet the desired technical skills and experience. Mr. Bairnsfather added that the Health Science Center has been very pleased with the service from LONI staff, but feels it is critical that adequate staff be maintained and available to provide timely service and address problems as they occur.

Mr. Vandal then indicated that there had been some recent developments with respect to the BTOP project. A "Request for Alternative Design" has been submitted by the Board of Regents and Division of Administration on September 9th for consideration by NTIA officials. The alternative design approach proposes to procure dark fiber routes under long-term Indefeasible Right to Use (IRU) arrangements in order to provide service to the underserved

parishes targeted in the grant application. Mr. Ed Driesse, State CIO, said that this is a very challenging project, but that he feels positive about receiving approval of the alternative approach from the federal officials.

Mr. Vandal then informed the council that LONI staff had met the previous day with Mr. Todd Barre, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration with the Board of Regents, to review the operating requirements and agreement for LONI for FY2011-12. Mr. Vandal thanked the Board of Regents for maintaining the LONI operating budget at the previous year's level. Mr. Vandal also indicated that LONI staff had been working with the Office of Telecommunications Management in the Division of Administration to put in place new State contracts with major internet service providers for enhanced and more cost-effective service. He expressed optimism that those arrangements would soon be in place and that both services and costs would be substantially improved for the LONI participant community.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Mr. Randy Ward, Chief Engineer with LPB, commented on an electronic virtual field trip that LPB conducted with 16,000 students, across 350 sites, and across six different states, in which the students were shown the coast and the impact of coastal erosion. He indicated that this would not have been possible if it weren't for the LONI network. Students are able to talk and interact with experts in the field on such projects. It was urged that universities and colleges work with LPB to collaborate on opportunities for the research community to present its work directly to classrooms so that students can interact and benefit from those experiences.

Mr. McMahon asked about public relations activities for LONI currently and Mr. Vandal indicated that there was no one available for that purpose at this time. LONI had been using staff with CCT at LSU, but the individual had left the position. Mr. Vandal indicated that they were

exploring renewed possibilities of partnering with CCT for those activities and that those discussions were on-going.

Dr. Stubblefield mentioned that Mr. Mike Abbiatti would be in town the last week of September with representatives from University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff to discuss how LONI-type activities could be established in Arkansas. They will be touring campuses and the Division of Administration's ISB facility in order to view the Queen Bee supercomputer.

Dr. Stubblefield also asked if there was any time limit for members serving on the Management Council. Mr. McMahon responded that in the case of Dr. Stubblefield's appointment to the council, he serves at the pleasure of the President of the Southern University System. The elected positions of chair, vice chair and secretary, are for 2 year terms.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Internet 2 IPv6 workshop, October 17-18 at Pennington Foundation Conference Room
- The National Science Foundation and Louisiana EPSCOR's Science Fair, November 17th at Baton Rouge Marriott

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before LONI Management Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.