

MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

February 2, 2010

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 2, 2010, in the Board Conference Room 6-242 in the Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Les Guice, Chair of the LONI Management Council, called the meeting to order. A roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Council Members Present:

Les Guice, Chair
Brian Voss
Lee Bairnsfather
Bob Fudickar
Steve Landry
Michael Stubblefield
Charlie McMahon
Donnie Vandal
Greg Speyrer
Mr. Mike Asoodeh

Council Members Absent:

Bradley Ebersole
Ed Driesse
Laura Levy
Joel Tohline

Guests:

Honggao Liu, LSU
Lonnie Leger, LSU
Carol Mosley, AT&T
Angela Mastainich, BoR

SPECIAL MEETING

Dr. Les Guice, called a special meeting for the discussion of the Executive Director position search that has been ongoing since last February. He asked that Mr. Brian Voss, Chair of the Executive Director Search Committee, to give an update on the search activities. Mr. Voss explained that he talked with many colleagues in the industry that told him because of the economy and other factors that finding highly qualified candidates would be very difficult. He also acknowledged that there would be considerable costs and time required to execute a full national search, with little certainty of success in identifying a viable candidate.

Mr. Voss continued that the nature of the regional network role in the industry tended to support the notion of a business person – someone who could build a long-term business plan and strategy for LONI – being a better choice than a researcher or technical leader. He also noted that around the country, these roles rely heavily upon the incumbent’s understanding of the particular State/Regional environments, industry partners, political cultures, higher education environments, government policies and processes, and the people and personalities of those entities. Mr. Voss noted that technology knowledge can be quickly acquired, whereas these business skills and environmental knowledge were much harder to develop in someone from “outside” the area.

Mr. Voss stated that one of our own, Mr. Donald J. Vandal, had recently expressed interests in the position. Mr. Vandal has been involved with LONI since its inception, and is very familiar with the goals, infrastructure, personnel, finances, policies, legal issues, and other aspects of LONI operations. His many years of leadership in state government policy and administration provide him with strong expertise that will benefit LONI in its current operations and future plans for sustainability. Mr. Voss recommended that the Council forward Mr. Vandal’s name to the Commissioner for consideration as LONI Executive Director. Mr. Vandal was invited to make comments about his interests in the position. Council members made positive comments about Mr. Vandal’s prior leadership with LONI and the strong leadership that he could provide to LONI in the future as Executive Director.

Upon the recommendations of Mr. Voss and the Search Committee, Chairman Guice offered a resolution (attached) for consideration by the council. With a motion by Dr. Steve Landry and seconded by Dr. Lee Bairnsfather, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to recommend Donald J. Vandal for Executive Director position subject to approval of the Commissioner and the LSU System.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before LONI Management Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.