

MINUTES

LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL November 30, 2004

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council met at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 30, 2004, in the Napoleon Bonaparte Room in the Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Les Guice called the meeting to order. Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Ms. Carolyn Blanchard, called the roll and a quorum was established.

Present:

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

Absent:

Ed Seidel
Jerry Luke LeBlanc
Laura Levy

Guests:

Jimmy Clarke, Board of Regents
Jessica Fender, *The Advocate*
Kevin Hardy, Board of Regents
John Hollahan, Bellsouth
Robert Groeneveld, Bellsouth
Adam Knapp, Governor's Office
Connie Koury, Board of Regents
Michael Khonsari, Board of Regents
Kyle Poulsen, CISCO

Chair Guice mentioned that a membership list was distributed to Council members today showing who made up the LONI Management Council (LMC).

NLR AND LONI MANAGEMENT COUNCIL LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Dr. Guice reiterated that the following officers were elected at the initial meeting of the LONI Management Council last month.

Dr. Les Guice, Chair
Dr. John Lawson, Vice Chair
Mr. David Nicklas, Secretary/Treasurer
Dr. Ed Seidel, Chief Scientist of the Research Advisory Group
Dr. Duane Blumberg, Chief Economic Development Advisor
Dr. Steve Landry, Chief Technology Advisor

Chair Guice gave the following updates:

- The Baton Rouge node of the National LambdaRail is scheduled for implementation in April 2005;
- The LONI Fiber RFP is going through a final review and could be approved by early next week;
- Some site surveys have been completed by AT & T;
- LONI should be deployed by June 30, 2005;
- The LONI listserv has been established;
- Authorization has been given to Charlie McMahon from Louisiana State University and A&M College to acquire a protected domain name for LONI, such as LONI.net or LONI.org. Vice Chair Lawson stated that those names are already taken, but hopefully there will be some negotiations or perhaps someone can come up with a name.
- A list of the Management Council meetings for the remainder of the year has been sent out. A meeting in February was scheduled for Mardi Gras and may need to be changed.

ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair Guice discussed the background of the three LMC Advisory Groups (AG) which were created to provide decision-making support data to the LMC. Dr. Guice emphasized that these individuals should act as resources to the LMC Advisors allowing for more flexibility in gathering

data, collecting information, studying alternatives, and then bringing the information back to the LMC, who would make the final recommendations to the Board of Regents.

Ms. Connie Koury, Legal Counsel to the Board of Regents, said that the individuals making up the Advisory Groups would function as a working group of staff for the LONI Management Council; therefore, meetings with formal agendas would not have to be posted, which could cause delays for the LMC making recommendations. She said that these individuals would possess appropriate expertise and act as a pool of resources for the LMC.

After further discussion,

On motion of Mr. David Nicklas, seconded by Dr. John Lawson, the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative Management Council voted unanimously to direct the officers of the LONI Management Council and the Chief Advisors to review the LONI Governance Plan and make recommendations to the Board of Regents in order to allow more flexible involvement of the three Advisory Groups (Research Advisory Group, Economic Development Advisory Group, and the Technical Advisory Group) to now act as resource individuals to the LONI Management Council (as opposed to functioning set committees).

Dr. Guice next stated that a resource list for each area (Research, Economic Development and Technology) should be developed. He opened the floor for discussion.

A. Technical Advisory Group Membership Appointments

☞ A list of names was mentioned as possible resource individuals for the Technology group by Dr. Steve Landry.

B. Research Advisory Group Membership Appointments

☞ It was mentioned that researchers, not only from the universities, but also from other areas, be included in these appointments. These individuals should be from a group of scientists that will make known what the research needs are and assist in identifying the needs of the future. Each institution should come back with a list of the type of individuals and have good representation from all universities. There were nominees from the floor from several LMC members.

C. Economic Development Advisory Group Membership Appointments

- ☞ Dr. Duane Blumberg, Deputy Secretary to the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, talked about the types of individuals to be on the list. He explained that all institutions contribute greatly to economic development. He stressed the importance of the creation of jobs, retention, growth and capital investments in the state. He continued by saying that those on the list should have a background in information technology or networking.
- ☞ Dr. Blumberg said that the individuals should be representatives from (1) institutions who are involved in economic development, (2) the Governor's Economic Policy Director and the Governor's Office, (3) the State CIO, (4) the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, (5) technology organizations from across the state, (6) the private sector from the type of companies that do joint R&D work with the universities, (7) medical areas, (8) manufacturing areas, and (9) Chambers of Commerce, etc.

After discussion, Dr. Guice requested that all nominees be forwarded to him and Mr. Mike Abbiatti, Associate Commissioner for Information and Learning Technology. He said they would give updates on these lists at a later meeting.

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

A. Selection/Prioritization of Benchmark Events

Dr. Guice mentioned the need to identify and prioritize upcoming events and tasking individuals to work on these items with a specific timeline in mind:

- ☉ Deploying the network and the financial aspects of deployment;
- ☉ Personnel needed to deploy LONI;
- ☉ Review of the LONI Governance Plan to develop strategic policies and procedures;
- ☉ What the Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) should include;
- ☉ How to go about setting up purchasing and contracts (work with Connie Koury and Board staff on this);
- ☉ Annual Operating Budget and a ten-year plan; and
- ☉ Develop grid computing strategies.

B. Tasking of Advisory Groups

Chair Guice gave a charge to Secretary/Treasurer David Nicklas to work with Donald Vandal and develop an operating budget for LONI to present to the LMC. He also mentioned that a proposal should be completed and forwarded to the Division of Administration regarding financing for fiber routes and networking.

After a discussion regarding RFP's, Chair Guice requested that Dr. Steve Landry develop a milestone and time schedule for RFP's for preparing for LONI deployment and bring back information to the next meeting.

Dr. Joel Tohline suggested that someone give an overview presentation to the LMC about the current status of LONI. Dr. Guice said he would discuss this matter with the LMC officers to decide who can give this presentation to the LMC.

Next, Chair Guice repeated the need to draft some operating policies and procedures or bylaws for the LONI Management Council. He said with the permission of the LONI Management Council, the officers of the LMC would draft some bylaws to bring before the Council for consideration with a reasonable timeframe.

C. Determination of Event Timelines

Dr. Guice charged Vice Chair Lawson with identifying the key issues to be worked on and a timeframe that needs to be addressed by the next meeting and establish a group at that time to accomplish these goals.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to be discussed.

PUBLIC EVENTS IN SUPPORT OF LONI

Dr. Michael Khonsari, Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Administration, said that he and Mr. Kevin Hardy, Communication Director of the Board of Regents, were working together to get newspaper articles published about the activities of LONI for the general public's information.

Dr. Khonsari also mentioned the possibility of creating a website with ideas from the webmasters from the various institutions to track the progress of LONI. He also mentioned the

“Static Display” which could be brought to Baton Rouge and other appropriate locations and researchers could have posters around this display. Dr. Lawson encouraged participation in other events that may not be LONI events but are related such as the Mardi Gras conference at CCT on grid computing.

Dr. Lawson mentioned the possibility of the LMC meeting in cities other than Baton Rouge to get needed publicity.

Dr. Blumberg said it was important to begin planning the LONI Kickoff event while the legislative session is underway. He said he will be visiting universities and talking about LONI and economic development. He has an upcoming invitation to speak at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents on December 8, 2004, and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System Board retreat in January 2005.

Dr. Guice emphasized the need for their own public relations work on their campuses. He said that Louisiana Tech University is planning a one-day workshop about LONI. Dr. Ukpolo entertained the idea of a LONI conference to have faculty come and give a presentation on a paper they have published since LONI came into existence.

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 3:23 p.m.