

MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

January 13, 2015

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 13, 2015, in the Board Conference Room, 6st Floor, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Michael Stubblefield asked for a roll call. A roll call was taken and a quorum was established. Dr. Stubblefield welcomed everyone.

Council Members Present:

Mike Asoodeh
Beth Courtney
Gene Field
Barbara Goodson for Commissioner of H.E.
Lonnie Leger
Brian Nichols
Bettina Owens
Ramu Ramachandran *via telephone conference*
Ram Ramanujam
Michael Stubblefield
Leo Tran for Charlie McMahon
Rachel Vincent-Finley
Melva D. Williams

Council Members Absent:

Richard Howze
Thomas Lovince
Ramgopal Mettu
Greg Trahan

Guests:

John Caffery, LONI
Patrick Keenan, LONI
Gary Canzoneri, LSUHSC NO
Hunter Ely, Tulane
Beth O'Quinn, IBM
Angela Mastainich, BoR
Lance Neal, BoR
Olivia Mitchell, Tulane
Honggao Liu, LSU CCT

Guests:

Charles Broome, ULL
Gretchen Rhodes, LSU
Ric Simmons, LSU ITS
Mark Edwards, LONI
Sam White, LSU
Clarence Copeland, LETA

Dr. Michael Stubblefield greeted the Council with Happy New Year and asked for a roll call, a quorum was established. He asked everyone to look over the October minutes. Dr. Ramachandran

corrected the Gaussian commercial license charge to be \$35,000 not \$15,000 as listed in the minutes. Dr. Stubblefield entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 14, 2014 MINUTES

On a motion from Mr. Brian Nichols, seconded by Ms. Barbara Goodson, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2014 LONI Management Council meeting.

Dr. Stubblefield welcomed everyone and stated that the Chief Advisor Reports/ Recommendations is next on the agenda. He asked Mr. Leger to begin.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Leger stated they have the usual Network Update and the HPC Update and he asked Mr. Sam White to begin with his report.

HPC Update

Mr. Sam White began by stating that QB2 is in production, available to all LONI users. There are still a few issues that need to be looked into and they are assisting users run their code, everything is a new version. There are a few issues to clean-up the deployment, most have to do with air conditioning and monitoring systems. Next is the decommissioning. They have five of the 5-Teraflop clusters down and they are working on getting them ready for disassembly. Once they are disassembled, they will call the trucks to haul them off to surplus. They hope to have Southern University's disassembled the end of this week. Then they will try to have one every two weeks, after that. Mr. Leger commended Mr. White and his team for a job well done of the implementation of QB2. The installation was really nice, very tight and clean, quite professional. It is an improvement over the environment we had with QB, it looks quite impressive. Ms. Courtney asked if all information is cleaned up prior to being sent to surplus. Mr. White stated that part of the decommissioning process is to make sure all data is wiped off disks. They will make sure all data is scrubbed off before they are turned over to surplus. There was discussion among Ms. Courtney, Ms. Goodson, and Mr. White about rule changes by the Division of Administration and that someone from LONI has to sign that all has been cleaned, otherwise, they will not accept it. Mr. White thanked everyone for the information on the process. Mr. Leger suggested that Mr. White work closely with Regents' staff on the surplus process. Dr. Asoodeh stated that cleaning surplus is not limited to computers and disks, but also cell phones, jump drives, and printers. Ms. Owens stated that stickers

have to be attached to equipment with a signature certifying that information has been completely wiped off the equipment.

Network Update

Mr. Leger recognized Mr. John Caffery to give the network overview for the quarter. Mr. Caffery began with recent accomplishments: Nicholls State University is officially on LONI as of December 22, 2014; all primary and backup connections for LSU are connected to our Juniper routers; and QB2 is connected to LONI at 40Gigs, including Super Mike and Super MIC. He further stated that the fiber build out that was constructed to Northwest LA Technical College is now in production and the 40Gig connection to the Digital Media Center at LSU is complete. He asked Mr. Leger if the scope of work for the fiber path for Pennington was in the meeting folder. Mr. Leger stated that he had emailed the diagram to the members earlier that day. The diagram was for the whole Essen Lane corridor. Ms. Goodson asked if it goes all the way to LPB. Mr. Leger stated it did. Mr. Caffery went over fiber construction and stated that the Supercomputing 14 conference was a success. He further stated that we now have an AT&T circuit connected to Dillard University and work is ongoing to bring them onto LONI.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

Mr. Leger stated he wants to keep the Council abreast of several items. He and the Regents' staff are working with Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to work out an arrangement where they will utilize QB2, the capacity that they need and the configuration they need. Also, the ability for us to receive compensation for the time they commit to using. We will be able to charge them for the time they commit to using. It's still ongoing, they are doing some tests and simulations to determine their overall need. The initial meeting was quite good with the Executive Director of CPRA and we are looking at bringing on more of the Water Institute and the Water Campus participants as an overall utilization, not just with the Coastal Protection Restoration. He is very encouraged they are still looking into what their needs may be. He further stated that they are in the process for Regents' staff to sign an extension of the AT&T lease fibers. AT&T has agreed to extend the contracts for another 12 months while we work on transitioning off of them. This will allow LONI the flexibility that we need. Working with DOTD, they are a great partner, but they have to deal with the Federal Highway Administration, it's going to take longer than we anticipated for us to take advantage of some of the additional infrastructure they have available around the state. He hopes that with the QB2 news of the 46 ranking, we received good press releases, they actually had some television time that aired in the Baton Rouge area. He complimented the Regents' staff for promoting the Unit with the news outlet. Also, he has a copy of an

HPC kind of publication that picked up the news. He stated they are working with the Division of Administration on 2 MOUs. One is to use some of their fiber assets in the Capitol Park to create some fiber redundancy to ISB for the QB2. The second MOU ties within our ability and their permission for us to procure the internet from the Quilt membership. We did this a couple years ago and saw savings then and we will realize additional savings. Our first internet conversion to that new contract mechanism will be January 26th. This will progress for a couple of weeks as we get all of them transitioned. LONI is also working with the Division to allow them access to that same contract mechanism and they will purchase off of it and resell it through OTM to their state agencies. He considers it to be a Win Win, they allowed us to utilize it and in return, we are creating the MOU that allows them to allow us to be their contract agent for their demand. Additionally, he will be attending an Executive Council Meeting, LONI is part of the Quilt and, as he mentioned earlier, one of the member benefits is our internet procurement. It is a representation of 35 LONI operators around the nation. He has been elected to be part of the Executive Council of the Board, so periodically he will be participating in the Board meetings, throughout the year. He moved on to discuss the NSF Solicitation in the meeting folders. He thinks it is one of the fastest growing NSF projects they have underway. It started out with the constituents of QUILT and Internet 2 community, communicating to NSF we need for assistance in building up capability on our campuses due to economic pressures that our campuses have felt over the years. NSF has opened it up and has received many proposals. There were so many proposals the first year, it demanded a second year. It has been building and NSF should be aware institutions are serious about their research and capability and facility needs. Each year they have new program categories for institutions to apply for, this year there are two. The cap has gone from \$500,000 for the last four year, from an infrastructure standpoint, to \$5,000,000 this year, really focusing on multi-campus, multi-institutional responses. Since we have the Council, since we have an EPSCOR kind of structure that operates in a multi-institutional perspective, the question to the Council is, should we somehow participate and respond to the \$5,000,000 effort or not? Or, will it be individual campuses, which will be capped out at \$500,000, for large campuses and small campuses at \$350,000. The other new category is instruments, these can be sensors, for example, it could be computers, test equipment, anything a researcher might need to facilitate an instrument being on the network to enable some kind of quality or a new aspect dimension of networking. This scale will take more structure and governance to participate at a multi-institutional scope. He wants to know if the Council is interested, the proposal is due March 24th, a little under three months to respond. Dr. Ramanujam stated that there were two different programs, a CCIIE and there was a DIPPS program. They combined the two into this program and the DIPPS portion is the one that is up \$5,000,000 for five years. All the others remain the same. Because of the integration of DIPPS and the old CCIIE they

haven't changed the limits for what will come under IIE. Dr. Ramachandran asked if LONI could submit as an organization or if there is some way that we could qualify to submit on behalf of LONI, he feels we should go for it. Mr. Leger stated it has always been how NSF views the Board of Regents in its responses. Last year, the regional response was available for non-profits, non-academic entities, we took the opportunity of not confusing it and just responding as LSU, as a separate response to the solicitation. He has had mixed signals from Kevin Thompson on how they view the Board of Regents, state agency wise, responding to the large category or not, or will we need a lead institution. There is no limit as to how many proposals can be submitted per institution, so we will not be running into that conflict. Dr. Ramachandran stated that this dovetails with the plan that was drawn up for "distributive data storage" within LONI and will help all researchers in the state with their data management plan. There are many advantages to going after this. If LSU wants to be the lead institution and the rest of us partner, that would be fine. Many of the EPSCOR RII proposals are submitted through the EPSCOR Office which exists within the Board of Regents. If that's possible, that is fine, he just wanted to say that he will be happy to help in every way possible. Mr. Leger stated that we need to find a lead institution if the Board of Regents is not able to submit. He further stated that he would be meeting with Kevin Thompson in February. Dr. Ramanujam stated that it's not so much if the Board of Regents can or cannot submit, it's how the panel perceives the submission. He said he and Brian Nichols will talk to the Office of Research at LSU and LSU will take it from their end, but LSU can do something for the State, if an institution has to be the lead. Dr. Ramachandran stated that one of the great advantages of this program is there is no cost sharing, unlike MRI proposals. Mr. Leger stated that means we don't have to come up with dollars from our own budgets. He asked Dr. Ramanujam to get with Mr. Nichols to determine how to structure our submission and inform the Council. He added it will be a large response to attract \$5 million, because we are not the only ones considering this proposal. It will be very competitive, but we have a great platform to build upon, as was mentioned, the data sharing repository for our data management needs across the State. Dr. Ramachandran suggested that a partnership of the 5 institutions that are listed on the current RII Track-1 proposal, that is currently under review, be considered. Or, consider a partnership between the LONI institutions where hardware is located, the hardware that is being decommissioned. These institutions will have the machine room and some capacity to host some of the hardware. It needs to look like the statewide effort that it is, perhaps, LSU acting on behalf of LONI or on behalf of the State. Mr. Leger asked who the 5 partners are that were mentioned. Dr. Ramachandran stated the proposal that is currently under review, if it is funded, it will be the successor to LaSIGMA; LSU, LaTech, SU, UNO, and Grambling. He further stated that Grambling has no LONI hardware on their campus, so it would be the first four campuses he mentioned. He added that the Council may want to consider ULL, Xavier, and

Tulane, all LONI institutions, and the LSU Health Sciences Centers. Mr. Tim Magner, LSUHSC Shreveport, he said they are also interested. Mr. Leger stated that there is a strong growing system on the NSF, before the President's announcement about community colleges. Last year and this year, they have had small institution science programs and researchers in the two-year colleges that need to be included in multi-campus, especially MIP#5. We need to identify them to incorporate their needs as we look at multi-institution endeavors. Ms. Courtney asked who would be the fiscal agent and what the overhead would be if you could get it? Ms. Goodson stated that the Board of Regents feels strongly that anything connected to the network has to be tagged to the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents (BoR) is held accountable on all state inventory, the audits, and everything else for LONI. She further stated that BoR has worked closely with LSU to make sure equipment is tagged appropriately and BoR carries it on its insurance. Ms. Courtney said that answered her questions on the mechanics, how it works, what the most cost effective way of doing, and, then, we want to make sure the NSF awards the grant. She is wants to know what is most attractive to them, when they are looking at proposals. The practical thing she is looking at is how we can most cost-effectively handle it.

Dr. Stubblefield questioned how the operational expenses which are incurred by the host institution, those generated are supported through indirect cost. The question, since this is a multi-institutional proposal, do those costs extend to the overall organization or to the host institution? Dr. Ramanujam stated that if all the equipment is in one location, that location bears the cost of maintenance. Some of that cost can written into the proposal. That may have to come to some type of cost-sharing, if needed, in-kind cost-sharing. That will be figured out as they look at the proposal in more detail. Dr. Stubblefield pointed out that \$1 million a year really isn't that much to go as far as we need it, we were hoping that a lot of the money would be achieved/received, as a direct investment from the project, itself. Mr. Leger ended his updates. Ms. Goodson asked about the Essen Lane and Southern University projects. Mr. Leger stated that he has communicated with Dr. Stubblefield about the Southern University project and stressed to him to find potential external funding sources. He has shared among Council members the structural scope of the Essen Lane corridor, to get any questions and comments they have received or items of opportunity for LONI. We are at the brink of submitting to the BoR a drive for a solicitation to go out. Dr. Stubblefield asked if any subcategories are potential mechanisms? Mr. Leger replied, "yes, they are", both at the \$500,000 and \$350,000, which is a specific institutional driver. We just have to find the right science driver, that will articulate the message for the panel reviewers within it for NSF on this program. Dr. Stubblefield asked Dr. Vincent-Finley and Mr. Leger to speak specifically about what a potential science project could be to support one of these efforts. He stated that there have been a couple written that could possibly be modified to support those efforts. Mr. Leger stated that given our financial

situation, the other category is network engineer. It is up to the institution for support cost to get a cyber infrastructure engineer on your campus for two years to facilitate that need. It is not just hardware, not just infrastructure, it is support costs, 100%. That is an option that is also available.

Ms. Goodson stated she wants to make sure she is clear that we are on track. With session coming up soon, she thinks she understands what's happening on Essen Lane and money is set aside to cover the construction, but she is worried about the Southern connection. Dr. Stubblefield stated that they are trying to pull funds out of General Funds to support that effort, but it probably will not happen. Ms. Goodson replied that is what she needs to know and she needs an idea about how much money will be needed to make that connection. Mr. Leger stated they have just straw-manned based on what they did at Nicholls State and what they looked at LSU-A. This is a \$350,000 to \$500,000 potential problem, if we have to go through the exercise of constructing without a partner provider that is in the area and in the business of selling the service. Dr. Stubblefield questioned if Southern loses the connection, does that mean they lose connection to LONI. Mr. Leger said "yes, Sir". Dr. Stubblefield asked if losing connection meant Southern will lose connection to all cyber connection and cost. Mr. Leger said "yes, Sir". Ms. Goodson said that is why she wants to make sure that we are clear on path, getting the AT&T leases, the extension gives us a little more time, but we have a solution for Essen corridor, but we do not yet have a solution to make sure we replace that connection on Harding Boulevard. Dr. Stubblefield said he would like to arrange some time for Mr. Leger to visit Southern's campus with him, to emphasize the importance of this and he will make sure the necessary people are in the room. Mr. Leger stated he has done a similar thing for UNO, they have a similar situation, from the City they are out at Lakeshore, the farther away from the City, the less options are available. Ms. Goodson stated it is not a long way to construct, it is just that we have to keep in mind that we have limited time to figure it out and then it takes some time to do it. Dr. Stubblefield stated it is always good to understand the urgency of a decision. Ms. Courtney added that Kip Holden announced at Rotary that he is taking some people to Washington, D.C. on Homeland Security/FEMA's nickel, to discuss emergency plans for the whole City and technically how things are done and how messages get out. She thinks that Southern's location, so close to the Airport where they have their emergency center, they will need some connections to major campuses, as well as, the refineries. Her thoughts are to visit with them to discuss the connectivity at Southern and this could bring in the funds needed. Dr. Stubblefield thanked Ms. Courtney for the information.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Under New Business, Dr. Stubblefield asked the Council for projected plans, projections of what our plans are for this year. He is asking for goals for LONI, what we would like to achieve. He further

stated that the USDA has a smaller program, maybe \$100,000 up to \$3,000,000, and it does look at Broadband. There might be a way that our Land Grant Institutions could utilize that and, hopefully, Southern could stay on-line, if it is awarded. Then we could expand our reach to the corners of the State. Mr. Leger said they will discuss that, also.

Mr. Gene Fields stated he wanted to give an update on the Security Group that had been formed. He introduced Mr. Charles Broome and Mr. Hunter Ely from Tulane, who are the security officers at UL Lafayette and Tulane. They have been working on this project and would like to give a brief background on where they have been, where they are, and where they hope to be in the near future. Mr. Broome thanked the Council for having them. The original objectives were to form and unify a group, and they have done that. They have representation from all the System, even the independent districts. We have unified and established a formal group. We have two chairs that passed unanimously, Hunter Ely and Charles Broome, the secretary is Karl Findorff. They have already had a few meetings, online. They have identified some action plans to bring to the Council. They are currently vetting them out without the LONI Management group of who handles day to day operations to make sure they are not impeding anything. They are trying to bring together and unify more than just their working group, but it's the boots on the ground to unify their knowledge base, their action plans together, and also to have their experience to matriculate throughout all the institutions. Some institutions or sites do not have a person dedicated to security, so they plan to reach out. That is one of their first action items. In doing so, they have identified common needs, that would bring value, not only to the security of an organization, but also of the integrity and availability of LONI itself. These items are currently being demonstrated to some of the constituents in their working group, but they would like to demonstrate further to the actual boots on the ground. Those items would be the Open DNS, kind of measure they spoke about that before, and, also, FireEyes. There are two products they are currently evaluating and disseminating that information to each institution. He asked Mr. Ely to comment on some of their other items. Mr. Ely stated that at their last meeting was to understand what the immediate problems are with security from LONI's perspective. Their first task was specifically around DMCA complaints, as that was an immediate issue since LONI gets numerous of these complaints and they don't know exactly know who to talk to at a given location/campus. Their first objective is to bring all the technical contacts into a common place to see them, as well as, LONI, to use as a way to get in touch with these schools that don't have a security office. They have a technical contact and a network contact, somebody that they can partner with through LONI. So, if LONI gets a complaint, they come to them and then they actually engage them directly. He further stated that Mr. Broome talks about the second part, which is more the security of the network, piece. That's what he would like to get to, he thinks that they can the other issues out of the way and then

demonstrate the value to the group. The second piece is to bring Open DNS, FireEyes potential security counter measures that can be implemented at the network later. They have had a couple of meetings to get the housekeeping items out of the way and then discuss about the first objective. He hopes that by the next time they give an update, they will have something more concrete on how something like Open DNS could work at the network level. They do believe a tool like that has to be all or nothing. If we are going to subscribe to it, it needs to be across the entire network to get the economy of scales and get the full breadth of what Open DNS does. He stated that Tulane blocks between ¼ and ½ million DNS requests a day on their network through Open DNS. If we were to span that out on a bigger network, this would reduce the security concerns on the network.

Dr. Stubblefield stated that Mr. Trahan had sent information about discussions on the Economic Development working group, the NOLA event, also, a meeting he had the City of Koby, Japan. He is looking, specifically, at how their HPC was engaging industry. They gave him some good feedback, he is collating that information to share with us once he gets back. Dr. Ramanujam stated that he was with Mr. Trahan with the Koby group. Mr. Leger said, much like Ms. Courtney discussed, it may be an opportunity to engage the City as Koby did with the Mayor discussing their asset under the City. Ms. Courtney asked if our people could meet with our Mayor when they return from their meeting in Maryland. She further stated that it is interesting that the City center is not connected with the State's, she doesn't think they have a fiber connection. Ms. Goodson questioned the one on Harding and GOHSEP on Independence? Ms. Courtney responded "correct", she doesn't think they are connected, the last disaster they were not connected. They were funded with federal funding to do much of the same thing, she thinks there is an opportunity there to do some exciting things. Dr. Stubblefield said he will raise a discussion to have on Southern's campus to address this issue and, then, as well, he will work with Lonnie about how to get involved with the City Parish and other universities that want to do something similar.

Ms. Courtney invited anyone to come to a Press Conference on January 20th at 10:00 a.m., with the Secretary of State, State Archives and LPB, to announce the Louisiana Digital Media Archives. They have been working on it for five years, they received an American Archives Library of Congress Grant, and now you can go and look at it for education purposes. There are 40 years of what LPB has cataloged. They are digitizing the State Archives as they go along, also. They see this as being beneficial for K – 12, as well as, universities. She went over some of the items they are still working on and these will be items the people will be able to go and look at, it is very interesting. Ms. Goodson asked Ms. Courtney if she has been talking with Sarah Zimmerman about one of Board of Regents' initiatives is the LOUIS Network. Ms. Courtney said, "yes, Ms. Zimmerman was part of the focus group, as well." She stated that the website is up and available for viewing.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before LONI Management Council, Dr. Stubblefield asked for a motion for adjournment. On a motion by Mr. Leger, seconded by Dr. Ramanujam, the meeting was adjourned.