

MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

November 14, 2023

The Louisiana Optical Network Infrastructure (LONI) Management Council (MC) met as scheduled to conduct its appointed mission at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 14, 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 1:31pm by those present.

<u>Council Members:</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present / Absent</u>
Kenneth Boe	LSU System	Present
Clarence Copeland	LETA/LPB	Present
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	Absent
Lonnie Leger	LONI	Present
Francesca Mellieon-Williams	SU System	Present
Nick Pitre	LCTCS	Absent*
Ramu Ramachandran	UL System	Present
Ram Ramanujam	LSU System	Absent*
Bryce Sanders	LACIU	Present
Eric Setz	LCTCS	Absent
Noel Wong	Tulane University	Present
Craig Woolley	LSU System	Present
** Denotes two consecutive absences		
*** Denotes three or more consecutive absences		

II. SECRETARY REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Richard Howze, 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 August 22, 2023, previously distributed to the Council via email without reading it aloud during the meeting.

III. CHAIR BUSINESS

a. Remarks

Chair Gabriel Fagbeyiro welcomed everyone to the last meeting for 2023. He began by reflecting on how it seemed to him just yesterday that the Chair transitioned from Mr. Ramu Ramachandran tenure to his own. Mr. Fagbeyiro expressed gratitude to the Council for a successful year, acknowledging the increased attendance and improved quorum, which contributed to the effective execution of their duties as council members in support of the LONI program. In closing, Mr. Fagbeyiro announced that Mr. Kenneth Boe would preside as Chair in 2024 and transitioned the business of the vacant Chair-Elect position to the LONI Nominations Committee, led by Mr. Ramu Ramachandran.

b. Nominations Committee

Mr. Ramu Ramachandran promptly acknowledged the committee's efforts, along with the Executive Director, in reaching a timely agreement on recommending Noel Wong to fill the vacant Chair-Elect position.

On a motion by Mr. Ramu Ramachandran, second by Mr. Gene Fields, the LONI Management Council unanimously voted to accept and approve Noel

Wong as the next LMC Chair-Elect starting his one-year term on January 1, 2024, followed by his one-year term as Chair on January 1, 2025.

c. 2025 Meeting Schedule

On a motion by Mr. Lonnie Leger, second by Mr. Kenneth Boe, the LONI Management Council unanimously voted to approve the 2025 Meeting Schedule.

2025 LONI Management Council Meeting Schedule:

- *Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 1:30-2:30pm*
- *Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 1:30-2:30pm*
- *Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 1:30-2:30pm*
- *Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 1:30-2:30pm*

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 highlighted the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony for the LONI SOC on the LSU campus. He also reminded the Council about the community-wide call scheduled for Thursday, November 16th. Mr. Leger mentioned that several of our staff and members are attending the Supercomputing event this week. Additionally, Mr. Leger provided an update on an upcoming Rural Health Care webinar set for November 29th, which was requested by the Regents staff following his presentation to the campus's CFOs. He also underscored the efforts of the LONI staff and LONI Membership in finalizing the agenda and logistics for the upcoming 2024 LONI

Summit, which will be held on March 19-21 at the University of Holy Cross, especially with the expansion to a three-day event.

c. Strategic/Business Plan Update

Regarding the Strategic Plan item, Mr. Leger informed the Council that a preliminary draft document has been submitted to the Regents staff for their consideration and feedback.

d. PaaS Update

Under the PaaS Update item, Mr. Leger highlighted that the four early adopter members (LONI, LSU, LSUSHC-NO, and LSUS) have gone live with our SOCaaS, contributing valuable insights to our service operations. He reported that La Tech and LSUE are expected to go-live by the next Council meeting. Mr. Leger notified the Council that as of November 1, 2023, we had achieved a 100% payment on our FY24 PaaS Invoice from our Higher Education members with only one state agency member remaining to complete their payment. Mr. Leger emphasized the positive progress, with all members having signed and returned their FY25 PaaS Subscription Membership Service Order by December 15, 2023. Mr. Leger also reminded the Council that the subscription formula must be renewed in FY26 for implementation in FY27.

e. HPC Quarterly Update

Under the High-Performance Computing (HPC) Quarterly Update item, Mr. Leger informed the Council that the delivered transformer system for QB4 was determined to be incompatible with the room UPS, necessitating its replacement, which will delay the user-friendly mode on QB4 until April 2024. He also cautioned the Council that due to the complexity of the remaining mechanical and electrical

infrastructure, there may still be potential unknown factors that could further extend the timeline. Mr. Leger presented a sizing comparison between the incoming QB-4 vs the current QB-3 and older QB-2, noting that QB-4 will have over three times the combined compute power and resources of QB-3 and QB-2. Currently, the staff reports current SU/CPU allocation of 105% combined availability on QB-2 and QB-3 clusters. While QB3 will remain fully operational, temporary scheduled maintenance windows are anticipated due to the integration of new transformers and cooling distribution infrastructure. As time permits, the LONI Staff continue to decommission QB2.

f. Network Quarterly Update

Under the Network Quarterly Update item, Mr. Lonnie Leger provided the Council with an update on network projects. He reported that the LONI Staff has successfully deployed the 100G backbone routers and is in the final stages of completing this task for all 100G edge routers facing our members and upstream providers. The staff is also actively rolling out the 10G edge routers that provide access services through a 3rd-party leased WAN service. The transition to Cisco has required ongoing collaboration with Cisco professional services to address any remaining complications. At the next Council meeting, we anticipate announcing the completion of the service transition to the new Cisco routers. Mr. Leger also shared those seven (7) members (FPHSA, LCU, LSU, LSUE, LSU HSC New Orleans, LSUS, McNeese) who applied for the FY23 RHC were fully funded from their applications, with an anticipated disbursement of \$570,022.40. Additionally, sixteen (16) members (FY23 Cohort + CLTCC, Fletcher, Grambling, LaDelta, LaTech, LSUA, Nicholls, NLTCC, RPCC) have applied for the FY24 RHC program, with a

potential reimbursement of approximately \$6 million. He then highlighted that the FY25 RHC cycle began in August following a virtual workshop hosted by LONI and UAMS on August 3rd. LONI aims to submit their paperwork to UAMS for processing in October. Mr. Leger presented a bar chart illustrating typical LONI Working Group participation and encouraged Council members to reach out to LONI Staff if they have any concerns or would like to improve their campus' participation.

g. Research Opportunities

Under the Research Opportunities item, Mr. Leger updated the Council that their NSF Mid-Scale proposal with LSU was not selected for an award, but new and foundational relationships have been established with the proposal team. In addition, LONI's involvement with LSU for an NSF CC* to Area 6 was selected for an award. Mr. Leger highlighted that LSU is a finalist for an NSF Engines Type 2 award.

h. Personnel Changes

LONI was able to secure Robby Byrd as the SOC Project Manager.

i. Closing Remarks

We've had a very busy schedule for 2023 including for the remainder of the year and we are excited about delivering on our forecasted outcomes.

V. CHIEF ADVISORS REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Chief Scientist

Mr. Ram Ramanujam was unable to attend this meeting.

b. Chief Technology Advisor

Mr. Gene Fields reported that the working groups are working well together, and the recent hot topics are machine-learning and artificial intelligence. There continues to

be strong collaboration among the attendees on how to capitalize on the available current and pending features of our various software platforms and tools. Mr. Fields continued to solicit the Council members to advocate their staff's participation and those they represent in joining the working groups on a regular basis.

c. Chief Economic Development Advisor

Mr. Paul Helton was unable to attend the meeting.

d. Chief Cybersecurity Advisor

Mr. Craig Woolley shared with the Council our active engagement in the Regents Cybersecurity Workshops, which took place on October 11th at LSUA and on the 12th at Nicholls. During these workshops, Mr. Leger had the opportunity to deliver a presentation on the LONI SOCaaS, while attendees also gained valuable insights into Regents' future-base funding approach regarding the SOCaaS from Mr. Matthew LaBruyere. The workshops covered a range of updates, spanning from the state's progress on LaCAP, previous cyber threats, cyber compliance, and cyber law. Mr. Woolley was pleased to announce that over the course of those two days, 15 public higher education institutions have expressed their interest and commitment to join the onboarding phase of the LONI SOCaaS. Mr. Woolley provided the Council with an update on the LONI SOC ribbon-cutting event at LSU. He expressed his personal satisfaction in witnessing Governor Edwards and Commissioner Reed taking a personal interest in the students, even before the official ceremony. Mr. Woolley reminded the Council how the SOCaaS is being fitted under the FCC Rural Health Care (RHC) program as an additional enhancement to the institutions. Mr. Woolley highlighted and thanked the effort and support being given by the Board of

Regents for this service. There was a good exchange among the members on regarding opportunities for student involvement in the SOC. Mr. Woolley highlighted that each institution working with LONI has the option to establish its own satellite SOC, following our standard operations model, located on their premises to monitor their enterprise network. Another potential approach for the LONI SOC involves the inclusion of students in Baton Rouge beyond LSU. Mr. Woolley reminded the Council that LSU doesn't have a satellite SOC and relies on the LONI SOC. He said that LSU had hired nine students for seats in the LONI SOC and anticipates the potential need for a total of 50-60 students. However, considering students from outside LSU is a complex matter, and there are numerous details to be discussed. Nevertheless, Mr. Woolley offered his assistance to collaborate with Regents, local institutions, and LONI to explore this approach in the future.

VI. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business taken up.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lonnie Leger reminded the Council about the upcoming meeting scheduled for February 20, 2024. He advised members to watch for calendar invitations for all the Council meetings throughout 2024. Following this, Mr. Kenneth Boe extended his personal gratitude, and other members joined him in expressing their collective appreciation to Chair Gabriel Fagbeyiro for his dedicated service to the Council. Mr. Fagbeyiro, in response, expressed his sincere gratitude for everyone's kind words and mentioned that it had been an honor to serve. There being no further business to come

before the LONI Executive Management Council, Mr. Gene Fields motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lonnie Leger, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.