MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

February 20, 2024

The Louisiana Optical Network Infrastructure (LONI) Management Council (MC) met as scheduled to conduct its appointed mission at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 20, 2024, in the Regent Board Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA. Chair Kenneth Boe called the meeting to order.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Michelle Brandon called the roll, and a quorum was established at 1:33pm by those present.

Council Members:	Representing	Present / Absent
Kenneth Boe	LSU System	Present
Clarence Copeland	LETA/LPB	Absent
Gabriel Fagbeyiro	SU System	Present
Gene Fields	UL System	Present
Paul Helton	LED	Present
Thomas Hoover	UL System	Absent
	DOA	
Janarthanan Jayawickramarajah	Tulane University	Absent***
Matthew LaBruyere	Board of Regents	Proxy – Elizabeth Bentley-Smith
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	Absent
Eric Setz	LCTCS	Present
Noel Wong	Tulane University	Absent
Craig Woolley	LSU System	Present
** Denotes two consecutive absences *** Denotes three or more consecutive absences		

II.   SECRETARY REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Clarence Copeland, 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 November 14, 2023, previously distributed to the Council via email without reading it aloud during the meeting.

III.   CHAIR BUSINESS

a.   Remarks
Chair Kenneth Boe welcomed everyone to the 2024 series of meetings. Mr. Boe commended the LONI staff for their exceptional work on upgrading the network and transitioning back to the Cisco equipment base. The transition has been smooth, and from my perspective, it has been very successful. I would like to extend my compliments to the entire team for their progress.

IV.   LONI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

a.   CY2024 Work Plan
Executive Director Lonnie Leger provided the Council an update on the CY2024 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.

On a motion by Mr. Lonnie Leger, second by Mr. Gene Fields and Mr. Gabriel Fagbeyiro, the LONI Management Council unanimously voted to approve the 2024 LONI Work Plan.

b.   Events and News

Mr. Leger highlighted the upcoming LONI Summit on March 19-21 at the University of Holy Cross and openly invited the Council to attend. This year's event will mark the expansion to a three-day event with two research panels. Mr. Leger reminded the Council of the typical quarterly LONI Community call on Thursday following our meeting.

c. Strategic/Business Plan Update

Regarding the Strategic Plan item, Ms. Elizabeth Bentley-Smith informed the Council the Regents staff is finalizing their review on the preliminary draft document and will be sharing that feedback with LONI and LSU.

d. PaaS Update

Under the PaaS Update item, Mr. Leger highlighted that an annual membership agreement renewal was issued to each member to address both the ending term but also to satisfy the Rural Health Care (RHC) program. LONI is monitoring future RHC disbursements to assess whether our standard schedule of issuing membership invoices should be postponed to better align with that event. Mr. Leger informed the Council that a new five-year membership agreement would be necessary starting in FY27 which means we need to start that process by the summer of 2025. Along with that news, Mr. Leger informed the Council that the membership formula ends on June 30, 2024, so to adhere to our historical practice of communicating 18 months ahead for membership cost changes and therefore recommends the Council be prepared to finalize a new fee schedule at the August 27th meeting. Mr. Leger further explained that a called Executive Committee by the presiding Chair has been the historical procedure to consider and recommend a formula back to the Council for a vote.

Upon the Executive Director's recommendation, Chair Kenneth Boe asked for volunteers to the Executive Committee and after additional discussion called the Executive Committee into effect for the consideration of a future membership formula. The Executive Committee was made up of Chair Kenneth Boe, Chair-Elect Noel Wong, Secretary Francesca Mellieon-Williams, Executive Director Lonnie Leger, Member Eric Setz, and Member Gene Fields with the possibly of other members as long as the number of members doesn't exceed nine (9). The Council approved the makeup of the Executive Committee and its charge.

e. HPC Quarterly Update

Under the High-Performance Computing (HPC) Quarterly Update item, Mr. Leger informed the Council that the correct transformer system has been installed between the existing UPS and QB4. We are now scheduled to complete the QB4 compute system by February 28th followed by the corresponding user environment. 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. QB4 user-friendly mode is now scheduled to be open in April 2024. Mr. Ramu Ramachandran informed the Council that the LONI Allocations Committee will need to meet and adjust their compute allocations policy due to the abundance of additional compute units (SU) being brought online with QB4. Currently, the staff reports that 88% of the combined available SU/CPU hours of QB2 and QB3 have been allocated to research projects. 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. Gary Mumphrey provided the Council with an update on network projects. He reported that the LONI SOC is scheduled to have thirteen (13) members (LONI, LSU, LSUHSC-NO, LSUS, LSUE, LaTech, LSUHSC-S, NSULA, LCTCS, RPCC, NLTCC, LaDelta, and CLTCC) in its production phase. There are five (5) members (BOR, LUMCON, LOSFA, SULC, and Nicholls) in the implementation phase followed by four (4) members (SUBR, SUAg, SUNO, and SUSLA) in the engagement phase and the remaining public institutions in the introduction phase. Mr. Mumphrey informed the Council the staff is actively rolling out the 10G edge routers that provide access services through a 3rd-party leased WAN service. and they continue to actively work with Cisco and Infinera professional services to address any remaining complications. The LONI staff will provide an update on their plans to wrap up the NGI on August 9, 2024. Currently, we expect that our summer will be very busy with network changes. Mr. Mumphrey also shared that the FY23 cohort of seven (7) members (FPHSA, LCU, LSU, LSUE, LSU HSC New Orleans, LSUS, McNeese) have received their share of the FY23 RHC reimbursement totaling $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 followed by twenty-four (24) members (FY24 Cohort + LSUHSC Shreveport, Nunez, SOWELA, SUBR, SUNO, SUSLA, UHCNO, and ULM) have applied for the FY25 RHC program for a potential

reimbursement of approximately $6 million. 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 the LONI staff is currently assessing the recent NSF CC* solicitation and whether to submit a proposal to certain areas in either April or October due dates. Mr. Leger highlighted that LSU received an [award](#) for their FUEL project under NSF Engines Type 2 program.

h. Closing Remarks

We have a packed schedule lined up for CY2024, and we're enthusiastic about achieving our goals.

V. CHIEF ADVISORS REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Chief Scientist

Mr. Ram Ramanujam was unable to attend this meeting.

b. Chief Technology Advisor

Mr. Gene Fields reiterated Mr. Mumphrey's previous report regarding the increased engagement in the two working groups. He continued to advocate for the Council's support in leveraging these groups for mutual benefit, emphasizing active collaboration on the recent changes brought about by Microsoft's ongoing SaaS lifecycle.

c. Chief Economic Development Advisor

Mr. Paul Helton shared with the Council that economic development is being reimagined under the new executive leadership, so there is no specific report to give.

d. Chief Cybersecurity Advisor

Mr. Craig Woolley shared with the Council the successful rollout of the LONI SOC at LSU. Currently in the production phase, all schools are being monitored by TekStream 24x7, with plans to integrate students into the security analyst (SA) rotation pending completion of their training and shadowing. This strategic use of students as SAs will help manage costs with TekStream. Mr. Woolley continued to explain that the first cohort of student SAs in the LONI SOC have started their shadowing of TekStream SAs that will be followed by a time of reverse-shadowing where the TekStream SAs will watch the students. Additionally, LSUS and LaTech are preparing to have students this fall in their satellite SOC to be security analysts for their respective enterprise networks. We are developing a standardized methodology and process for on-board students regardless of their background for placement in the LONI SOC at LSU or at one of the satellite SOCs. We anticipate hiring additional students in the LONI SOC as additional schools are added to the production phase of the service. Mr. Wooley informed the Council that TekStream will further support student development with resume building, interviewing tips, and access to placement services for potential employment. The goal is to have all schools in production by next June, with a midway point expected by this June. Mr. Gene Fields asked Mr. Woolley on behalf of one his faculty members at ULL, who is the point-of-contact to find out how he can get his students connected with learning the environment associated with the LONI SOCaaS. How could the faculty

integrate this service with their pedagogy and make it a part of their curricula. Mr. Woolley responded by stating to start that conversation with him and he would get others involved like the LONI Staff as necessary to answer his questions along with Mr. Tom Hoover who is working to tightly integrate the curricula at La Tech with the requirements of their satellite SOC.

VI.   <u>OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS</u>

There was no old or new business taken up.

VII.   <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Mr. Lonnie Leger reminded the Council about the upcoming meeting scheduled for May 14, 2024.

There being no further business to come before the LONI Executive Management Council, Mr. Kenneth Boe motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Gabriel Fagbeyiro, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.