MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

April 10, 2012

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at

1:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 10, 2012, in the Board of Regents Conference Room, 6th floor,

Claiborne Office Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. Charlie McMahon, Chair of the LONI

Management Council, called the meeting to order. A roll call was taken and a quorum was

established.

Council Members Present:	Council Members Absent:
Mike Asoodeh	Eric Setz
Brian Nichols	Thomas Lovince
Lee Bairnsfather	
Beth Courtney	
Donnie Vandal	
Ed Driesse	
Gene Fields	
Todd Barre	**Guests:**
Joel Tohline	Angela Mastainich, BoR
Laura Levy	Sam White, LSU
Les Guice	Jan Waguespack, AT&T
Rachel Vincent-Finley	Brett Brock, CISCO
Charlie McMahon	David Lynn, Dell Inc.
Michael Stubblefield	Honggao Liu, LSU
	Keith Cullum, Dell
	Blake Gonzales, Dell Inc.
	Joey Spohrer, Dell Inc.
	Lonnie Leger, LSU
	Lance Neal, BoR
	Leo Train, Tulane
	John Caffery
	Ben Bartsch, LONI
	Rusty Davis, LONI
	Kyle Paulsen, HP
	Carl Brandt, LSU/LONI
	Jeremy Songne', LSU/LONI
	Dean Davis, Juniper Networks

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 10, 2012 MINUTES

On a motion from Mr. Vandal, seconded by Dr. Guice, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2012 LONI Management Council meeting.

NLR AND INTERNET 2 UPDATES

Mr. Donnie Vandal, Executive Director for LONI, said that the Internet 2 Joint Techs Conference held at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in January was a terrific success. It had the second largest attendance of any Joint Techs Conference ever held. Mr. Vandal referred the council to a letter from David Lambert, President and CEO of Internet 2, thanking LONI for hosting the Winter 2012 ESCC/Internet 2 Joint Techs conference. Mr. Vandal also mentioned that the Internet2 Spring Member Meeting will be held the week of April 22-26 and that he, Mr. McMahon and Mr. Leger will be attending.

Mr. Vandal then noted that the next Supercomputing conference, SC '12, will be in Salt Lake City, Utah on November 10-16. He indicated that LONI staff has been asked to assist in conference set up, as their experience and support in the SC '11 New Orleans conference contributed to its success. Staff travel support will be provided by the conference organizers. In 2013 the conference will be in Denver and we will again host the conference in 2014 as it returns to New Orleans.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Joel Toline said that the NSF LA-SiGMA Project under the EPSCOR program is going well in its second year. The Board of Regents sponsored project is renewable in five years. He also noted that project science leader Dr. Randy Hall is leaving LSU to go to California which is a great loss for the program here.

Dr. Les Guice said that there have been industry/university workshops which are tied to the computational material sciences related to the LA-SiGMA project, and the Industry-Academia Workshop for Biosciences will be held in New Orleans on April 15-16. It will have national speakers and industry panels and address the computational issues and challenges related to those emerging technologies. Many of the universities will be participating in the workshop.

Dr. Tohline mentioned that LSU's CCT had recently been notified by NSF that it would be receiving a half-million dollar award to purchase a sizable GPU (graphical processing unit) based high-performance computing system. Honggao Liu, CCT deputy director, led the interdisciplinary team of investigators that put the successful NSF proposal together. This GPU-based cluster should be coming on board about the same time that LSU's new, more traditional 7000-core HPC system becomes operational. We are therefore anticipating, by mid-summer, that we will have a lot of new computing capacity to share across the LONI network.

Mr. McMahon informed the Council that there are some new NSF grant opportunities available for universities seeking to enhance their campus networking infrastructure. He suggested that university representatives in attendance who are interested in such opportunities meet immediately after the Council adjourns so that information on the grants can be shared with campuses that would be interested in participating.

A network update (attached) was then presented by Mr. Lonnie Leger, Director of Networking. He indicated that the IBM P5 machines, the original high performance computing resources for LONI, are being picked up from UNO and Tulane, and the one at ULL will follow. He also noted that LONI staff is collaborating with DOTD for possible fiber improvements in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and along the Northshore. The construction RFP for the Xavier University connection project has been released and will be opened on April 26, 2012. He also

mentioned that there is a new permit along the stretch of I-49 from Lafayette to Shreveport for a new fiber installation.

LIGO is moving toward being directly connected to LONI instead through LSU, but their new sensors requiring improved connectivity will not be ready until 2015. At that point, we hope to be ready to provide 100Gig connectivity with Internet2 so that LIGO will be able to exchange their "big data" between Washington, San Diego and other interested facilities.

The IPv6 World Day is coming up which will be a launch to a continued use model and not just a single day event as last year. There are numerous content providers such as Google, Yahoo, etc., that total over 300 worldwide that will participate. We will be ready for the IPv6 World Day by having IPv6 enabled across our entire backbone, Internet2 and the 4 Internet connections including various schools like LSU and Tulane. All schools are strongly encouraged to obtain their own IPv6 addresses from ARIN to facilitate a smooth and long-term transition to IPv6.

Talks have begun with LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport concerning their interest of having the Cyber Information Center (CIC) connected to LONI; there is nothing concrete yet, but there are very interesting discussions on-going.

Significant issues facing the LONI network a bit longer term is that the network equipment will eventually need to be refreshed and that a large amount of the currently leased AT&T fiber in the network will begin to terminate in 2015. Some alternative strategies on both of these issues will need to be developed and pursued in order to protect the network's integrity. Dr. Stubblefield asked if we had specific dates as to when alternatives needed to be put in place so as to not have service interrupted. Mr. Driesse asked if we knew the price tag on any such alternatives and Ms. Courtney asked if there were any fiber opportunities available to us. Mr. Leger indicated that the federal National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which administered the Broadband Opportunities Program for enhanced fiber

deployment will likely not be providing any future grant funding for that purpose, but there is growing competition in the marketplace and additional fiber sources may be coming available. Mr. Vandal said that when Regents and LONI staff were working with the Division of Administration on the BTOP grant, it had been estimated that approximately $16 million for fiber replacement would be needed if it were to be built, and as much as $15 to $20 million would be needed for equipment replacement for the entire network.

Mr. Leger concluded by noting that we have been successful in making some recent staff replacements and then introduced the LONI networking staff to the Council. Staff recognized included Rusty Davis, who serves in the Shreveport and north Louisiana area, John Caffery in the New Orleans and surrounding area, Ben Bartsch, Lafayette and southwest Louisiana area, Jeremy Songne', who serves as project manager for all of the fiber projects.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Vandal apprised the Council that Bob Fudickar was leaving Louisiana Economic Development and that his replacement by the Secretary of LED would be forthcoming. Ms. Beth Courtney suggested Paul Sawyer, who serves on the Broadband Advisory Council, might be a good selection.

Mr. Vandal reminded the Council that it serves as an advisory body to the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Board of Regents, and in that service its role is to make specific recommendations to the commissioner and the board on network development and operations. An issue needing to be specifically addressed was that of finally securing network connection for Nicholls State University, one of the very few remaining public four-year institutions in the State not currently connected to LONI. Mr. Vandal requested that the Council take official action in that regard.

On a motion by Mr. Asoodeh and seconded by Dr. Tohline, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to endorse the LONI Network being extended into and directly connecting the Nicholls State University campus.

Mr. Vandal then addressed the High Definition Synchronous Video Backbone Deployment (see attached), which is part of the LA-SiGMA 5-year, $20 million NSF grant. The grant is providing $ 150,000 in equipment to establish a high definition video capability. This will provide an opportunity for the State to become a national leader in distance learning in computational sciences. It has been determined, however, that to make this investment more powerful, useful and valuable to the project as well as to the entire LONI network, that an enhancement of funding would help tremendously. Much as with the Nicholls fiber project and the Council's need to be on record with a specific recommendation, Mr. Vandal asked for an endorsement of support for the HD Video deployment.

On motion by Donnie Vandal and seconded by Les Guice, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to recommend participation by LONI with the High Definition Synchronous Video Backbone Deployment and to seek enhancements to the project to the greatest extent possible.

Mr. Todd Barre requested that some of the LONI members plan to go before the Board of Regents soon to explain the various developments and strategies being considered and pursued within the network community. Mr. Driesse then brought up House Bill 976 of the legislative session, which deals with distance learning. He urged that care be taken so as to make sure there was no over-lapping of service delivery with others doing the same thing as would be possible with the High Definition Synchronous Video Backbone Deployment. Ms. Beth Courtney reminded everyone that LPB has been doing distance learning for about 35 years and they can be of help in getting things done with the LONI network.

Mr. McMahon brought up that the National Science Foundation (NSF) is looking into requiring that everyone start archiving data, something that Dr. Levy spoke about several meetings ago. Mr. McMahon said there will be a SURA meeting with the Librarians and the

Data Preservation Network (DPN) project, Academic Preservation Network project is also interested in talking to get individual universities or LONI to join in the discussion. Fedora Common could be used as our platform as they are part of this community that is working toward this common goal. The Deepen Project is going to be presented to AAU on April 16, 2012 and we expect to have a broadening of blue chip universities that are going to commit to the project after that.

Mr. Vandal then indicated that he has been working with the Board of Regents staff on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish procedures for management and operation of the LONI Subscription Fees Account administered on LONI's behalf by LSU.

Mr. Vandal also noted that Honggao Liu has been appointed Deputy Director of the Center for Computation and Technology (CCT) at LSU and that Sam White has been recently appointed to replace him as Director of High Performance Computing (HPC) for LONI/LSU. Mr. Vandal introduced Mr. White and congratulated him on his appointment.

Mr. Vandal also asked that everyone start thinking about having a strategic planning session in the near future similar to the one the Council had in 2008. He asked that suggestions be made as to when and where this would be preferred.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before LONI Management Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m. Mr. McMahon reminded everyone that the next meeting will be July 10, 2012.