MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

April 11, 2006

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 2:03 p.m.,

Tuesday, April 11, 2006, in the Board of Regents Conference Room, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Chair, Les Guice called the meeting to order. The roll was called and a quorum was established.

Council Members Present:
Les Guice, Chair
Connie Koury
Steve Landry
Laura Levy
Michael Ralph
Ed Seidel
Harold Silverman
Jeffery Smith
Greg Speyrer
Michael Stubblefield
Joel Tohline

Council Members Absent:
Mr. Paul Barron
Mr. Bob Fudickar
Dr. Brad O'Hara

Guests:
Mike Abbiatti, Board of Regents
John Hoolahan, Bell South
Brain Voss, LSU
Lori Brannon, Cisco Systems
Don Ballard, LETA
Angie Welch, IBM
David Crockett, IBM
Gerry Catalano, IBM
Beth O'Quinn, IBM

APPROVAL OF MARCH 20, 2006 MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Steve Landry, seconded by Dr. Joel Tohline, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2006, LONI Management Council meeting.

NLR AND LONI MC LEADERSHIP BRIEFING

Dr. Guice asked Mike Abbiatti to give an update on NLR. Mr. Abbitatti told the

Council that the NLR Board voted to suspend discussions of the merger. The merger talks

have been discontinued, but there are groups that are working together to encourage further discussions.

Next, Mr. Abbiatti told the Council that he has been in meetings with the Emergency Operations (ESF8) group and they are interested in tracking patients at hospitals in the event of another hurricane. He then told the Council that the common thread with LONI and emergency operations is databases. Many people are interested in databases for various functions during disasters.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Next, Dr. Guice asked Dr. Steve Landry to give the technical update. Dr. Landry told the Management Council that the cooperative endeavor agreement between DOA, DOTD, LPB, and OTM is nearing completion. Then, he told the Council that the deployment schedule of the P5 machines is about the same and that by July or August the entire grid should be up. Next, Lonnie Leger handed out a color coded map with the various stages of completion of the LONI network. He then told the Council that the local loop timeline is about sixty days. He informed the Council that UNO has temporarily halted progress in preparing their facilities for the P5 because of manpower shortages.

Next, Dr. Ed. Seidel gave the Management Council an update on research activities. Dr. Seidel began by telling the Council that he had done a white paper with input from other institutions related to the allocations and membership into LONI.

LONG-TERM LONI MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Dr. Guice told the Council that because of immediate and anticipated staffing requirements for operating the leadership proposes that additional staffing for LONI be

contracted with LSU. Four additional staff members are needed for system administration, grid services, and user support/training.

Next, Dr. Guice recommended that LONI establish faculty Fellow positions at LA Tech, Southern, LSU, UNO and Tulane. Dr. Guice indicated that the establishment of Fellows is needed to fully engage the campuses in LONI activities. The Fellows would be co-funded by the campuses and would help build strong interdisciplinary research programs around LONI. Next, Dr. Guice asked for volunteers to shape out a description of the Fellows objectives and expectation for consideration at the next meeting.   Dr. Ed Siedel, Dr. Laura Levy, and Dr. Michael Stubblefield volunteered to help. Dr. Guice presented an organizational chart that had been created to describe the relationship of LONI staff and fellows to the Executive Director and Management Council. After discussion, Dr. Guice recommended bringing it to the Commissioner and the Board of Regents for approval.

> **On a motion of Dr. Levy, seconded by Dr. Smith, the LONI Management Council unanimously voted to bring the Organizational Plan to the Commissioner and the Board of Regents for approval.**

Next, Mr. Greg Speyer told the Council that the Bylaws Committee had come up with an alternative plan for the bylaws regarding the establishment of quorums for meetings.

The plan basically stated that at the meetings a quorum would be established if 5 of the 7 institutions were represented. A full discussion of the proposed bylaws revisions will be considered at the next meeting.

After discussions about staffing and Fellows the Management Council entered into Executive Session at 3:12 p.m. Upon reconvening, the following motion was made.

On a motion of Mr. Greg Speyrer, seconded by Dr. Steve Landry, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to recommend that Charlie McMahon, Deputy CIO at LSU, be named as Executive Director and that a contract be developed with LSU for his services.

LSU has agreed to pay for half of Mr. McMahon's salary and to reassign some of his other duties so he can focus on HPC and networking. The entire Council made very positive comments about Mr. McMahon and his abilities to provide the necessary leadership for LONI. Brian Voss, LSU CIO, will serve as an interface with the LONI MC and LSU to ensure that Mr. McMahon's responsibilities at LSU do not conflict with his role as Executive Director and to assist him in securing access to other resources at LSU as needed in support of LONI.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the LONI Management Council, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.