MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

November 15, 2005

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 2:15 p.m.,

Tuesday, November 15, 2005, in the 6th floor Board of Regents Conference Room in the

Claiborne Building, 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
Mr. Bob Fudickar
Dr. Brad O'Hara
Steve Landry (Video)
Harold Silverman
Michael Stubblefield
Joel Tohline
Greg Speyrer

Council Members Absent:
Laura Levy
Donald Vandal
Ed Seidel
Jeffery Smith
Victor Ukpolo

Guests:
Mike Abbiatti, Board of Regents
Carl Brandt, LSU
Don Ballard, LETA
Gerry Catalano, IBM
Dave Crockett, IBM
Kyle Galugha, Cisco
D. Griffitt, BLS
Kevin Hardy, Board of Regents
Tom Harrell, DOTD
John Hoolahan, BellSouth
Paul HSU, DOTD
Ryan Morgenel, Cisco
Dave Taylor, Global Data
Brian Voss, LSU
Angie Welch, IBM

APPROVAL OF JULY, AUGUST, AND OCTOBER 2005, MINUTES

> **On motion of Dr. Joel Tohline, seconded by Mr. Greg Speyrer, the LONI**
> **Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July,**
> **August, and October, 2005, LONI Management Council meetings.**

Dr. Guice began by telling the Management Council that Dr. Duane Blumberg had recently retired and Mr. Bob Fudickar, technology director for Louisiana Economic Development, is representing LED as Economic Development Advisor for the Management Council. Next, Dr. Guice announced that Dr. Brad O'Hara with the University of Louisiana System is replacing Dave Nicholas on the Management Council. Dr. Guice also told the Management Council that Dr. John Lawson is leaving his position at Tulane and a request has been sent to the President of Tulane to name a new Tulane representative to the Management Council.

Mike Abbiatti informed the Management Council that discussions of the merger between NLR and Internet2 continue. There has been a flurry of activity the last ten or fifteen days relative to the negotiating position of both groups. Internet2 and NLR are represented by two different boards with two very large investments, both philosophically and financially. The negotiation teams will likely keep working until the job gets done. The NLR Board has filed some comments with the FCC about the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) and associated broadband services impact. Mr. Abbiatti mentioned that all campuses have been dealing with CALEA, have heard all the discussions, and that enactment of CALEA will require higher education to invest a good deal of money. This will be to provide interfaces for law enforcement agencies and homeland security agencies so they can access information that may be required by legislation. NLR has stated our case pretty well in terms of cost to the institutions.

Next, Dr. Guice told the Management Council that the search for the executive director is well underway. The process was disrupted by hurricane Katrina and the hiring freeze but the applications have now been reviewed and have narrowed the candidates down to two. There are

currently discussions with the candidates with a chance of inviting them in for interviews on either December 6 or December 13. There will be an agenda worked out for the days of the interviews and the candidates will be scheduled to meet with the Management Council. Dr. Guice then told the Council that once they make sure the candidates are interested, their resumes will be distributed to the Council for review. Next, Dr. Guice told the Management Council that the contract with LSU for network engineering support staff has been issued. Lonnie Leger has already been hired and there has been a contract received from the Board of Regents to hire two network engineers. After discussions with LSU administrators, and Management Council approval, it was decided that there should be funding in the contract to hire three network engineers and a systems administrator. LSU is in the process of moving forward with searches for those positions. Lonnie Leger told the Council that Kenny Rochant from LSU accepted the second position as a LONI network engineer. There is an offer out to a third gentleman and he is reviewing it. Lonnie expects an answer fairly quickly with that person starting in mid December.

Next, Dr. Guice mentioned that a three page draft proposal had been developed for FEMA. The proposal is to develop phase two of LONI which will connect LONI to all of postsecondary institutions and a number of the hospitals. The proposal addresses some of the needs of disaster mitigation, back up of data, and some of the major issues faced through hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Mike Abbiatti has begun to have discussions with Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) Mitigation personnel to determine the process for consideration of the proposal.

Mr. Abbiatti told the Council about the mitigation plan that is being worked on with FEMA. There was discussion about the mitigation process and how it would be beneficial for the universities in storage and retrieval of important data. The discussions focused on a program

they have for disaster proof universities and other programs that deal specifically with higher education. The issue will be moved as far and as fast as it can.

Dr. Guice told the Council that the general concept of this mitigation plan was to add two additional lambdas on the LONI backbone and then to connect eleven universities, forty of the LTC's and ten hospitals, and provide local loops and approximately five one-hundred terabyte storage facilities for the back-up storage of data.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Next, Dr. Steve Landry told the Management Council that he was very excited about the responses that had been received during the interview process with the early possibilities for the executive director and he is glad that the network staff is being nailed down. Dr. Landry asked Mr. Voss to give an update on how Charlie McMahon is doing. Mr. Voss told the Council that Charlie is in the office working three hours a day right now. He is moving very tenderly but he looks good. Expects by the December meeting he will be back full time.

Dr. Landry then told the Council that things are progressing on the installation and deployment side. Dr. Landry asked Lonnie Leger to give an update in terms of deployment of gear. Mr. Leger told the Council that the routers have been deployed to each of the institutions, excluding the New Orleans area. They are in the process of doing the fiber characterization. As they gain more access to fiber that has been secured under the agreement with Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) they can order the pieces of the optical equipment that are needed to make everything function correctly.

Dr. Landry stated that they are working an issue with the I-49 fiber. There was a meeting with the legal consultants and the Board of Regents legal counsel to finalize the general issues around the contract and structure. Currently they are trying to set up a meeting

with Sun America to negotiate the final use constraints that they will allow. Hopefully the issue will be resolved before the December meeting.

Next, Dr. Landry told the Council that the P5's are all at LSU. They are working to get optimal use out of them but the delays created by the hurricanes have extended the schedule for getting the P5's deployed to the various campuses. It was discussed that they would go ahead and setup the P5's in the LSU machine room and connect them to the grid to make them a resource for the research community until the various campuses are ready to have the deployments done, then they will be moved out. There were discussions about deployment of a P5 at Louisiana Tech and one at Southern possibly before the end of the year and using I-2 as a means to connect the P5's at the respective universities.

Next, Mr. Bob Fudickar mentioned that he had initiated some conversations with people and they are anxious to get the executive director in place so that they can have his input with the economic development issues.

LONG-TERM LONI MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Dr. Guice reminded the Council that the Council needs to get the business plan fully developed. The visit of the external group of advisors for the management plan had to be canceled because of the hurricanes. Dr. Guice suggested that an option would be to bring the advisors in after the executive director is hired.

Next, Dr. Guice mentioned that there were a couple of issues with the bylaws that need attentions. He asked Dr. Tohline to re-organize the bylaws task group to review the bylaws. He suggested that there may be an option to have a quorum established based on the percentage of the people that are at the meeting.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Dr. Guice then asked the Council to send him the name of a LONI web page liaison to work with Kevin Hardy. The person should be someone who knows what is going on at the campus level to provide content and be a general liaison for others on the campus, such as the PR folks and research community. Also, he asked for the name of a key networking/computing liaison. This person would need to be someone on the campus who is quite familiar with the overall campus IT operations and who could be in a position to work with the LONI staff and the MC to effectively integrate LONI into campus activities. This would probably be the CIO, computing center director, or similar. It would not be a researcher.

MOTION

No motions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the LONI Management
Council, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.