

MINUTES

LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

June 14, 2005

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 2:10 p.m., Tuesday, June 14, 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
John Lawson, Vice Chair
David Nicklas, Secretary/Treasurer
Donald Vandal
Steve Landry
Harold Silverman
Jeffery Smith
Greg Speyrer
Michael Stubblefield
Joel Tohline

Council Members Absent:

Duane Blumberg
Laura Levy
Ed Seidel
Victor Ukpolo

Guests:

Mike Abbiatti, Board of Regents
Carl Brandt, LSU
Lori Brannon, Brannon & Associates
Gerry Catalano, IBM
David Crockett, IBM
Kyle Galusha, Cisco
Sherwin Harvey, IBM
Chris Holmes, IBM
Martin F. Maldnado, IBM
Charlie McMahan, LSU
Terrie Razel, IBM
Jeffrey Smith, Delgado
Brian Voss, LSU
Angie Welch, IBM

APPROVAL OF MAY 17, 2005, MINUTES

On motion of David Nicklas, seconded by Dr. Tohline, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2005 LONI Management Council Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MAY 31, 2005, MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Lawson, seconded by Dr. Tohline , the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2005 LONI Management Council Meeting.

NLR AND LONI MC LEADERSHIP BRIEFING

Mr. Mike Abbiatti told the committee that NLR is on the way and there are approximately fifty days to go before the Baton Rouge node is activated. Also, Mr. Abbiatti told the Council that there have been no changes to the LONI deployment schedule. Next, he reminded the Council that there will be a reception the night of September 8th for the NLR Board and an NLR Board meeting at the Board of Regents on 9th of September.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Chief Technical Advisor Dr. Steve Landry told the Council that the relationships between LONI and other agencies within the state, particularly with OTM, DOTD, and LPB, continue to be discussed in an effort to form alliances for the future so that those groups might use the services of LONI as the base network develops. Next, he told the Council that the technical team is refining local campus plans. He also suggested that the local campus buildouts would probably be handled through contracts issued by the Board of Regents to the campuses.

Mr. Charlie McMahon told the Council that Bell South was the lowest bidder for the Cisco gear. Also, he told the Council that IBM has agreed to provide a group of experts on the P-575 architecture to help the researchers learn how to run their code on the machines and optimize it. They have also agreed to repeat the seminar additional times so that researchers from all the campuses can come together to get a jump start on how to run their codes on the machines.

Dr. Landry provided an update on the efforts to hire additional network engineers. Since there has only been one network engineer hired to support the deployment and operations of LONI, other options have to be considered if the deployment schedule is to be

met. LSU has offered to provide the support staff to handle deployment and initial operations if the Council would enter into a 2-year contract that would enable LSU to staff up to meet both LONI and LSU campus needs. After considerable discussion, the Council recommended that Mr. Vandal begin discussions with the Commissioner about the approval of the proposed contract with LSU.

LONG-TERM LONI MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Next, Dr. Guice expressed the need to hire an executive director for LONI. Dr. Guice provided the Council with a draft LONI Executive Director Job description for consideration. After discussion, the Council encouraged Dr. Guice to move forward with the request for advertisement of the Executive Director position.

There were additional discussions about hiring a consultant to help develop a business plan.

MOTION

On a motion of Dr. Lawson, seconded by David Nicklas, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to hire a consultant to guide them in developing a business plan.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Dr. Guice indicated that there had been some interest expressed by a couple of Council members in developing content for the LONI website. Mr. Greg Speyrer volunteered to handle implementing more content for the LONI website.

Mr. Abbiatti encouraged all institutions planning LONI symposia to send him the proposed dates for the events. A common calendar should be created and disseminated in order to be sure that these very important symposia are not scheduled in conflict with one

another. Southern University in Baton Rouge has scheduled a LONI Symposium on October 21, 2005.

Dr. Guice also asked the Council to provide pictures to Kevin Hardy that could be used to put on the LONI display at various meetings and events.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the LONI Management Council, on motion of Chair Guice, seconded by David Nicklas, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.