MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

July 14, 2009

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

1:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 14, 2009, in the Board Conference Room 6-242 in the Claiborne

Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Les Guice, Chair of the LONI Management Council,

called the meeting to order. A roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Council Members Present:
Les Guice, Chair
Ed Driesse
Lee Bairnsfather
Bob Fudickar
Laura Levy
Michael Stubblefield
Charlie McMahon
Joel Tohline
Greg Speyrer
Mr. Mike Asoodeh

Council Members Absent:
Bradley Ebersole
Steve Landry (by phone)

Guests:
Randy Ward, LPB
David Lemoine, DoA/OCS
Honggao Liu, LSU
Steve Beck, LSU
Robert Leche, LSU
Derald Kirkland, OTM
Lonnie Leger, LSU
Carl Brandt, LSU
Cheryl Michelet, BoR
Sam White, LSU
Randy Walker, LSU
Mike Thibodeaux, AT&T
Jan Waguespack, AT&T

APPROVAL OF May 12, 2009 MINUTES

On a motion from Dr. Laura Levy, seconded by Mr. Charlie McMahon, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2009, LONI Management Council meeting.

NLR AND INTERNET 2 UPDATES

Mr. Charlie McMahon, Vice President of Information Technology and CTO for Tulane University, presented an update on the National LambdaRail (NLR). Discussions revolved around the cost of remaining in NLR versus the costs of replacing those services with Internet 2. When the opportunity arose to join NLR, our research needs were met at that time. As we look forward, Internet 2 has put in a new network that provides many of the services offered by NLR. There are more similarities today than before between NLR and Internet 2. It is likely not to be cheaper remaining in NLR. In his opinion, it is time for Louisiana to withdraw from NLR.

Mr. McMahon continued by saying that NLR had missed their July payment. He said his only concern was the risk of litigation and asked that the Board of Regents meet with the lawyers. Dr. Stubblefield asked that we poll the council to see how everyone feels about whether we should pull out or not. All members agreed that we have poured too much time and energy into NLR and it is time to sever our ties. Mr. Vandal asked, what would be the timeline to take NLR out and replace with Internet 2? Mr. McMahon, Mr. Voss and Mr. Leger all agreed that the technology part would be a smooth transfer over.

Dr. Joel Tohline, Interim Executive Director of LONI, said he was in favor of moving to Internet 2 instead of remaining a member of NLR assuming that the monies paid to NLR can be rolled into expanded capabilities in Internet 2.

Mr. McMahon reminded the MC that the Board of Regents is the NLR member and will make the final decision on membership.

On a motion from Mr. McMahon, seconded by Joel Tohline, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously, to charge the executive leadership team, Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Technology officer, to work with Mr. Vandal and the Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Clausen, of the Board of Regents, on terminating our contract with NLR.

Mr. Brian Voss reported on Internet 2 saying the key items are:

- 2009 renewals will stay "as is" under current model, new fees will take effect 2010

- LSU and Tulane are Level 1 University Members

- LaTech listed as SEGP under Level 3

- LONI listed as REN under Level 3 (Connector Organization-Dues Waived)

- No other Louisiana Institutions currently are members; but all are "connected" under LONI SEGP

In summary Mr. Voss says, in the fee structure, the "major players" will stay flat and some version of the "slightly smaller members" (new Level 2) will get a break, as will the even smaller members in Levels 3 and 4. He thinks I2 did this in order to encourage some of the smaller places to *not* drop, and perhaps make it easier for some who are on SEGPs to "get a real membership" for very little money.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Landry thanked Dr. Honggao Liu, Director, High Performance Computing at LSU, and Mr. Lonnie Leger, LSU, for the LONI weekly updates, then turned the report over to Mr. Lonnie Leger and Dr. Honggao Liu.

Mr. Leger handed out a one-page summary of the accomplishments, short term plans, long term plans and the issues that they are still working on. Dr. Bairnsfather, LSU/LSUHSC, asked about the answer from AUP and Mr. Leger said that AT&T has given verbal and written approval but that the final document has not been signed by all parties.

Mr. Ed Driesse, State Chief Information Officer, said that if we do not get things worked out with AT&T that it will affect our getting stimulus money and the projects that will be done with that money. Dr. Bairnsfather asked if we have ever considered letting AT&T go and running our own fiber. Mr. Leger said yes we have and the cost would be about 16 million to run the fiber. As far as the connection with the ISB building, through downtown and onto campus it has become a one way conversation with no response from Paul. Dr. Guice, asked what are our other options, and Mr. Leger commented that we could continue going to the LSU campus, going

through the downtown area, across the bridge and onto the campus at a cost of about $ 750,000. Mr. McMahon said that DOTD might share the part of the project from LSU to the bridge.

Dr. Tohline, LSU, said he feels it will be a problem asking NSF for a Grant when we cannot get things moving with AT&T. Mr. Randy Ward, LPB, mentioned that they were connected to Level 3 to Downtown through COX and he will ask if maybe we could get on board.

Honggao Liu spoke of his concern with the aging equipment and many of the warranties ending this year and next. We could be spending around $750,000 over the next 3 years on maintenance, so Mr. McMahon asked that Mr. Leger, Mr. Tohline and Mr. Liu look into the cost of purchasing new equipment instead of buying warranties. Dr. Guice commented that there is some equipment at Southern that could be used and asked Mr. Tohline and Mr. Liu to look into its capability.

CHIEF SCIENTIST REPORT

Dr. Guice said that through EPSCoR there were three funding opportunities for us that we need to be aware of: 1) Research Improvement Award, $20 million 2) NSF Track 2 proposal (last year did not get funded) with a new Disaster Management thrust should be successful,$6 million 3) NSF C2 Cyberinfrastructure Connectivity, $1 million. Dr. Tohline said there are two active groups putting the proposals together: 1) NSF ARI - helping to move LONI into the national area, 2) NSF MRI, for expanding LONI's HPC capabilities. The first round of submission is August 14, 2009. There is another Broadband stimulus proposal that is under development. The goal of this proposal is to provide and enhance broadband and related services over an open-access, inter-operable and multi-use network to promote economic recovery. This will create new jobs, and invest in technology and infrastructure by focusing on key priorities and collaborations between PK-20 educational institutions, public libraries, healthcare providers, community colleges and higher education, public broadcasting, government, and qualified

economic development projects in the State of Louisiana. Mr. Asoodeh said that he had been meeting with the Broadband Council Taskforce. The proposed Louisiana Education Broadband Alliance, LEBA, would have a preliminary focus on the ten parishes of the Louisiana Delta Initiative including Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Morehouse, Richland, Tensas, and West Carroll. LEBA would also like focus on the needs of the following four federally recognized Native American tribes: Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

Dr. Tohline and staff have been meeting with Donnie Vandal to verify LONI funding sources. An account was established at LSU to hold revenue received from each participating campus as they have gotten connected to receive internet services. The account has been averaging about $60,000 a month or $720,000 a year.

On a motion by Dr. Tohline, seconded by Mr. McMahon, proposed that funds be invested annually from the LONI revenue account to add two new network engineers to the LONI support staff and to provide sufficient funds to support 100% of the salary of the LONI Executive Director position. The vote passed unanimously.

Dr. Tohline continued going over the LONI revenue account, he stated that LONI has accumulated funds that have not been spent and can be used as a one-time expenditure. Mr. McMahon stated that the single most important network backbone that we are missing is the cross-connect to Ruston to close the Northern loop. To build this out it will be approximately $320,000.

On a motion from Mr. McMahon, second by Dr. Bairnsfather, it was recommended that we use a one-time expenditure, of $325,000 out of accumulated funds to complete the Ruston link and close the Northern Loop. The vote passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning:

Dr. Laura Levy commented on the Strategic Planning sub-committee, trying to develop a funding model and to understand current spending, current revenue and expenditures.

Dr. Mike Stubblefield commented on Economic Development which seems to be at a standstill. On a recommendation from Mr. McMahon, Dr. Stubblefield spoke with a group out of Austin Texas that works with businesses on marketing and development, to get their thoughts on a business plan for LONI. They will be ready to speak to the Management Council concerning what LONI should do to become a complete national lab possibly at the September meeting. It will help LONI bring partners together.

PUBLIC EVENTS IN SUPPORT OF LONI

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before LONI Management Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.