

**MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

December 13, 2005

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 2:02 p.m., Tuesday, December 13, 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
Steve Landry
Ed Seidel
Harold Silverman
Jeffery Smith
Michael Stubblefield
Greg Speyrer

Council Members Absent:

Laura Levy
Dr. Brad O'Hara
Donald Vandal
Joel Tohline

Guests:

Mike Abbiatti, Board of Regents
Mike Rough (Substitute for Dr. Ukpolo)
Carl Brandt, LSU
Lori Brannon, Brannon & Associates
Dave Crockett, IBM
Robert Groeneveld, BLS
Charlie McMahan, LSU
Angie Welch, IBM

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2005, MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Steve Landry the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November, 2005, LONI Management Council meeting.

NLR AND LONI MC LEADERSHIP BRIEFING

Dr. Guice began by recognizing Dr. Lennart Johnsson as a guest. Dr. Johnsson is a professor of computer science and mathematics at the University of Houston. He told the Management Council that Mr. Johnsson would provide a presentation on optical networking and

grid computing immediately after the meeting adjourned. Next, Dr. Guice asked Mike Abbiatti to give the Council an update on NLR.

Mike Abbiatti began by telling the Management Council that most of the activity with NLR right now is wrapped around the merger of NLR and Internet2. He stated that the merger could possibly take place in the first quarter of 2006. He provided the Council with the NLR Merger Principles that had been agreed to by the NLR and I2 Boards. He then told the Council that he did not see any conflicts with the principles of LONI and the merger principles of NLR and Internet2.

Next, Dr. Guice told the Management Council that much of the focus of the Management Council right now is looking at the Executive Director applicants and that feedback and assessment is needed from all members.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Steve Landry began by telling the Management Council that he was very glad to see Charlie McMahon back. He then asked Charlie to give the Council an update on the deployment of the P5's and the installation of the fiber.

Mr. McMahon began by telling the Management Council that the third networking engineer had been hired and started December 12. His name is Ben Blundel he is a University of Louisiana at Lafayette graduate. The fiber between the NLR and LSU is operational. The next thing to come up is the loop from NLR to Southern to LPB and back to LSU. This is expected to be operational by mid January. The next two build-outs will come out of Baton Rouge and go east to Hammond and towards LaPlace then from Baton Rouge going west over to Lafayette. The critical path items on those two network segments are the cross connects from the DOTD fiber on Airline back to LSU. These are expected in mid January and the electronics deployed on those two network segments by early February. The

next thing to be done will be to light up the network segment between Shreveport and Monroe. Next, Mr. McMahon told the Management Council that purchasing has the last bid for the local loop connectors to connect all of the end points and sites that need the cross connects. The bids should be released soon. Next he told the Council that there are two fiber network segments that will require further consideration. The paths are from Monroe back to Baton Rouge and from New Orleans closing the loop to Lafayette. Those should be decided very soon. The schedule for deployment is a little behind. Because of this the equipment discount deadline has been extended into February. Next, Mr. McMahon told the Council that they are virtually ready to start deploying some of the P5s to some of the campuses. The first one will go to Louisiana Tech. They currently need authorization to sign a contract with IBM for the relocation of the P5s. The cost of the contract is about 35,000 and as soon as it is signed they will begin delivery of the P5s. Next, Dr. Guice asked Mike Abbiatti to follow up on the contract after the meeting.

Next, Dr. Ed. Seidel gave the Management Council an update on the research activities. Dr. Seidel began by telling the Management Council about Super Computing 2005 and that there were approximately 9,000 people there including a number from the LONI institutions. Next, he mentioned that there needed to be a grid allocation team to establish principles for allocating the P5 machines. He stated that he would like to get some representative team that includes people at the institutions. He suggested that the people should be scientists who could evaluate the applications and some administrative people that could help coordinate. Mr. McMahon told the Council that some fundamental decisions about how user accounts are handled should be considered by the allocation team. It was suggested that there needs to be input from the research community because they are the primary customers.

MOTION

On motion of Dr. Steve Landry, Seconded by Mr. Bob Fudickar, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to establish a LONI Grid Allocation Team and a set of principles on how to allocate the P5 machines.

Next, Dr. Guice asked the Council to provide names from their campuses to Dr. Seidel and copy him with the names.

Next, Mr. Bob Fudickar mentioned that he had initiated some conversations with several people about LONI economic development activities. He is anxious to get the executive director in place so that they can have his/her input with the economic development issues. Next, Mr. Fudickar told the Management Council that he has invited IBM to bring in one of their people to speak on economic development-related grid activities. He said that the plan is to have the session immediately following the next MC meeting on January 10. He told the Management Council that the presenter is Ron Watkins, IBM Systems and Technology Group, Public Sector, Grid & Virtualization. Two others may also attend to participate in the discussion: Jeff Atkinson, Emerging Technology Solutions, Public Sector, and Scott Klasing, Senior IT Architect, Grid. The presentation is titled "Economic Development with Grid Computing - a New Business Model."

LONG-TERM LONI MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

There was no new information presented on long-term management strategy.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Dr. Guice told the Management Council that Louisiana Tech is having a workshop on the IBM P5 Series on the 10th, 11th and 12th of January. Dr. Guice told the Council if they had someone on their campus they would like to attend there will be space made for them.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the LONI Management Council, the meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.