

## Open Research Institute Board Meeting

3:12pm - 4:01pm 20 September 2019

Huntsville, AL, USA

### Participants

Michelle Thompson

Ben Hilburn

Bruce Perens (by phone)

### Action Items

- 1) follow up on volunteer offers about LDPC on FPGA (Michelle)
- 2) study sponsorship of non-profit GNU Radio Slack (Michelle)
- 3) communicate with another organization on behalf of volunteers to resolve an unfair financial burden (Bruce)

### Summary of Relevant Discussion

The biggest news is the successful IRS determination in March 2019. Open Research Institute is now an official 501(c)(3). There was a delay due to a misunderstanding about an extra identity check from California, but resolving that the state was simple. 6 March of each year is now an ORI holiday with all appropriate celebrations. Bruce was recognized and thanked as being central to the successful incorporation, founding, and IRS determination of Open Research Institute.

Finances are dramatically improved over last year. The Trans-Ionospheric badge project was very successful with over \$12,000 raised so far. The new Wells Fargo account is a big improvement over the internet bank that we tried to use. Michelle agrees to remain as CFO and anticipates being able to use the postcard 990 for filing ORI taxes at the close of the fiscal year (31 December). The reason is that we will not exceed the amount of revenue that requires the "full" 990.

Bruce agreed to remain CEO. Michelle was reminded that she was also Secretary, despite an auditory hallucination about Ben agreeing to take on the

role.

Technically, ORI continues to succeed despite the reliance on 100% volunteer labor. The research institute structure has served very well. Highlights from the year are numerous and show continuous improvement in terms of public working code in widely used and recognized frameworks. Several volunteer offers of LDPC decode on FPGA have been received. Michelle to follow up.

Discussion on travel reimbursement. Bruce believes travel must be reimbursed "at some point". Michelle says that doing ORI business on trips that participants were already taking has to be the short term solution, otherwise the entire bank account could be drained with a few events. Ben asked if we had a travel policy. ORI does not. No actions taken at this time.

Discussion of GNU Radio Slack. It's possible for Open Research Institute to sponsor the GNU Radio Slack, according to Slack HQ. Ben declined, citing the decision for GNU Radio to move away from Slack. Ben asked about how much it would cost, as an experiment that shows the "full" Slack instead of "free" might make a difference to the core dev team at GNU Radio. Michelle to find out and report back to Ben.

Executive session to discuss a sensitive situation. Action item: Bruce to communicate with another organization on behalf of volunteers that would otherwise shoulder an unfair financial burden.

Minutes unanimously approved 14 February 2020

*Michelle Thompson*  
Secretary ORI



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