
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VATSIM BOARD OF GOVERNORS

QUARTER 3 – 2017

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 2017 20:00Z

LOCATION: VATSIM TEAMSPEAK SERVER

PRESENT:

- Gunnar Lindahl (GL) – VATSIM President VATGOV1 (Chair)
- Mark Richards (MR) – VP Operations VATGOV2 (Minutes)
- Jackson Harding (JH) – VP Regions VATGOV4
- Norman Blackburn (NB) – VP Conflict Resolution VATGOV8
- Roger Curtiss (RP) – VP Virtual Airlines and Special Operations VATGOV9
- Tim Barber (TB) – VP Supervisors VATGOV11
- Daniel Gomes (DG) – VP Membership VATGOV12
- Divya Patel (DP) – VP Pilot Training VATGOV14

1. WELCOME

Meeting opened at 20:11z. GL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

- Kieran Hardern (KH) – VP Web Services VATGOV6 – No Proxy Given

3. ADHOC VOTES SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There had been one vote since the last meeting, which had passed.

- Approval of the minutes of the Q2-2017 BoG meeting

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a. CoC SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE (MR)

MR outlined to the meeting that he had been dealing with many personal matters and that this had taken all his time away from VATSIM and therefore he had not completed any of his action items.

A meeting took place with the CoC Sub-Committee but there was an issue with the note from the meeting. TB to check his notes.

b. SUPERVISOR COVERAGE (TB)

Up about 10 per cent on where we were last meeting. Still struggling to meet goal. Have increased supervisor numbers with seven currently in training.

c. **CONSULTING ON VATSIM STRATEGY (GL)**

GL has met with several members of the BoG to put some material together. We are making progress but there is still some work to do. GL is hoping to get a document to the membership in the New Year, but we need to be flexible with this so that the document is solid.

The document will be high-level and will outline what we aspire to, not the specifics of how we are going to achieve this.

d. **JOINT BOG/FOUNDERS MEETING (KH)**

As KH was not present at the meeting, no update was provided. GL to have KH send an update to the BoG by email.

5. **BOG DEPARTMENT UPDATES (ALL)**

OPERATIONS

MR stated that other than Iron Mic he had not achieved anything for VATSIM this quarter.

REGIONS

JH updated the BoG on the plans for calling for applications for a new Regional Director for Oceania which will be called for in the New Year.

It was moved JH, seconded MR, "That we move into Executive Session".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY at 20:26z

It was moved JH, seconded MR, "That we move out of Executive Session".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY at 22:29z

Thomas Matthieu has stepped down as Regional Director, Africa/Middle East Region. This position will also be advertised in the New Year.

The two vacancies will be run together, with a plan to conduct interviews in mid-January.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

In the last quarter there were 310 24-hour suspensions by Supervisors for a variety of CoC and CoR breaches.

102 cases were referred to the DCRM. Of these, USA resolved 25 cases, 9 by UK, 7 by Canada and 4 by the Europe DCRM. Oceania had no referrals. There were two that were referred to the Russia DCRM, but these were not resolved as the DCRM did not receive the email notifications, so they lapsed.

VATSIM is missing one DCRM in Asia and one in South America. Having a DCRM is a requirement placed on the Regional Directors in the CoR.

Action: NB to work with JH to ensure that every Division has a DCRM.

VIRTUAL AIRLINES AND SOA

RC reported that his team had completed the latest round of VA partner audits. The number of VA partners is down a little bit. He is looking at this to find the reason.

MR suggested that there needs to be some more engagement from the VA and SOA team between audits, citing two VAs he is involved with missing some items during the audit and making the decision not to remain as a Partner VA. RC outlined the reasons why and the limitations of the current system.

TB suggested that consideration ought to be given to granting Partner VAs access to the official VATSIM social media channels to post their activities online. GL suggested that this is something that can be discussed with the new VP Marketing and Communications is appointed.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

GL hopes to advertise VP Marketing and Communications shortly including some pre-interview practical assessment criteria.

Deon Matthews is continuing to lead on the Social Media front and doing very good work there. The BoG recorded it's thanks to Deon for his continued work.

Successful Cross the Pond was event held in October and again broke all records for online connections.

Worldflight 2017 was successfully held on the Network at the beginning of November.

Action: JH to approach the Worldflight team to ensure that the team and VATSIM work closely to ensure the smooth running of the event.

Matt Bartels from VATUSA is liaising with both Flightsimcon and Flightsim Expo to have a VATSIM presence at both events in 2018 in Dallas and Las Vegas.

SUPERVISORS

TB provided a written report to the BoG prior to the meeting.

TB has appointed Callum McLoughlin temporarily to the role as Senior Supervisor of Team Four.

Getting several complaints from Supervisors regarding users on the Network using XSquawkBox as the client does not signal the user when a private message is received, and as such makes it very difficult to reach them. TB has asked a couple of Supervisors who use XPlane and XSquawkBox to write a document for other Supervisors to assist them in ways to contact a pilot or to assist them set up their client.

TB has been dealing with some issues in Italy vACC. None of them relate to breaches of the CoC or CoR so he has referred them back to the vACC.

MEMBERSHIP

DG reported there have been no relevant issues for the membership department.

Michael Mund-Hoym has taken a brief leave of absence from his duties with the MD following a change in work circumstances. He is due back in the New Year.

DG reported that the remainder of the membership managers were handling the work of the Data Audit Manager following the resignation of Ray Lang with no need to replace Ray in this role.

PILOT TRAINING

DP reported that the P1 rating was the most popular rating, with P5 being the least popular.

The Authorized Training Organizations (ATOs) have been static, although during the Quarter, the Middle East division ATO became inactive. Two more organizations are going through the stages of

approval as an ATO. One of these organizations will be offering multi-crew training and assessment using shared cockpits.

DP held some meetings with CFIs and Instructors who are interested in developing the P7 and P9 development.

DP is planning to hold quarterly meetings for the Pilot Training Teams.

DP reported that he is looking to use P6 as a 'type-rating' programme.

DP is currently working with a couple of members to bring them onto the Pilot Training team to assist with the workload.

6. NEW BUSINESS

REGIONAL AND DIVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP MANAGERS (DG)

Daniel has requested information from the Division Directors and Regional Directors to get their opinion on the role of Regional and Divisional Membership Managers and what they should be able to do. He was received feedback from two or three more and is hoping for more.

XPLANE AND XSQUAWKBOX (TB)

TB added more to the item from his report regard the frustration of controllers and supervisors not being able to reach XSB users as there is no aural alert when a private message is sent and for users not putting the full name in the client. TB will reach out to Chris Collins to see if these can be added.

NB sent a link to a forum post outlining a plugin that will allow this.

EASING VISITING CONTROLLERS RESTRICTIONS FOR MILITARY ATC (RC)

RC is working with JH and the EC to consider a relaxing of the Visiting Controller policy for vSOAs to provide military ATC for their operations.

MEMBERSHIP TICKETS FOR VA AND SOA (RC)

RC is looking to get into the scripts for Membership Tickets that are sent to the VA and SOA team as a number have not bearing on his team.

VP NETWORKS AND VP TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT (RC)

RC asked if we have any progress on filling the vacant VP Networks and VP Technical Development positions on the BoG.

GL reported that he was working with the Founders as traditionally the three technical roles have been appointed with Founders input and without advertising and it is the will of the BoG that these roles have more transparency and are extended to the wider membership.

VATEUD WEBSITE (GL)

GL provided an update on VATEUD's Website.

It was moved GL, seconded NB, "That we move into Executive Session".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY at 21:39z

It was moved GL, seconded MR, "That we move out of Executive Session".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY at 21:42z

7. OTHER BUSINESS (ALL)

Nil

*As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 21:46z.
Next Meeting Saturday 10 March 2018 at 20:00z*

Action Items:

1. **JH** to approach the Worldflight team to ensure that the team and VATSIM work closely to ensure the smooth running of the event.
2. **NB** to work with JH to ensure that every Division has a DCRM.