
MEETING OF A MEETING OF VATSIM BOARD OF GOVERNORS

QUARTER 4 – 2017

SATURDAY 10 MARCH 2018 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
- Roger Curtiss (RP) – VP Virtual Airlines and Special Operations VATGOV9
- Tim Barber (TB) – VP Supervisors VATGOV11
- Daniel Gomes (DG) – VP Membership VATGOV12

1. **WELCOME**

Meeting opened at 20:14z. GL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **APOLOGIES**

- Norman Blackburn (NB) – VP Conflict Resolution VATGOV8 – Proxy to GL
- Divya Patel (DP) – VP Pilot Training VATGOV14 – 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 Q3-2017 BoG meeting

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

a. **CoC SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE (MR)**

MR had been unable to locate the notes from the meeting as it done in Slack which didn't archive the notes. TB and MR will resurrect the meeting and take a fresh look at it.

TB to take the lead on this piece of work as the Supervisor team is looking for the changes to initiate some change within the teams.

b. **SUPERVISOR COVERAGE (TB)**

Supervisor coverage was down in the quarter. Still sitting on average 75% uptime. The goal is 90% and TB is working with the Senior Supervisors to increase the coverage.

October 2017 was 79.54%, November 2017 was 79.33% and December 2017 was 72.59%

GL reminded the meeting that BoG members need to improve our own online time. The ideal time to do this is when doing other VATSIM business.

c. **UPDATE ON PUBLISHING VATSIM STRATEGY DOCUMENT (GL)**

GL outlined the priority is to fill the outstanding four BoG vacancies. Once these positions have been filled, we will then revisit the strategy document once we have a full Board.

Given the workload that the strategy will place on BoG members, it is important that every member of the BoG, including the new members to be appointed, have input into the document prior to release. Once these positions have been filled, GL will revisit the document.

RC suggested that we ask questions on strategy in the interviews. GL said that we, as the BoG, need to also provide a statement to the applicants about the strategic direction for VATSIM so that have buy-in from the outset.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

RECRUITMENT UPDATE FOR ADVERTISED BOG POSITIONS (GL)

GL provided the meeting with an update on applications for the VP Marketing and Communications vacancy. There are ten applications, one of whom has subsequently withdrawn his application. The calibre of applications is very high. The remaining nine have been sent a pre-selection questionnaire to shortlist the applicants. Interviews are planned for the end of the month.

MR provided the meeting with an update on applications for VP Network Systems, VP Technical Development and VP Web Services. Applications close next Thursday and there has been good interest already with several applications received for the roles. Interviews are planned for late March/early April because of Easter and the impact this may have on the availability of panel members and applicants.

SAFEGUARDING MINORS ON VATSIM (MR)

Over the years there have been several incidents involving minors on the Network. To safeguard minors, the BoG has set up a small working group of MR (Chair), TB and NB to develop a clear policy on safeguarding minors on the Network. The group will co-opt other members as necessary to ensure global consideration in the policy.

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY at 20:42z

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY at 20:48z

INTERIM VP NETWORK SYSTEMS/WEB SERVICES AND CERT2 SUMMARY (GL)

Kieran Hardern stepped down from his role on the BoG during the quarter due to work commitments. The BoG recorded its thanks and appreciation to Kieran for his work as VP Web Services and in also handling the other technical roles.

Kieran had built a good team of assistants in Jamie Fox and Matt Cianfarani during his tenure. GL and MR have been working with Jamie and Matt to ensure that until the new VPs are appointed, we have appropriate support and services to ensure technical issues are addressed. There is almost daily contact, and matters are being addressed quickly. Jamie and Matt have access to almost all systems.

GL had met with Kieran recently and discussed his commitment to CERT2 development. Kieran has agreed to continue development of this as it is about 80% complete. He is briefing Jamie Fox on the technical aspects of the software and development to ensure that there is more than one person available to continue development.

MR expressed concerns about the technical positions being single points of failure and that there was a desire that all three technical positions would act as redundancy for each other.

6. **BoG DEPARTMENT UPDATES (ALL)**

OPERATIONS (MR)

MR stated that the personal issues he has been dealing with is sorted and he is back actively involved with his VATSIM duties. He has got Iron Mic up to date.

Deon Matthews, who has been publishing the VATSIM events on the VATSIM.net website and social media, stepped down from the role at the end of February 2018. The BoG recorded its thanks and appreciation to Deon for his work. To ensure continuity of this process, MR has taken this on until the new VP Web Services has been appointed and can develop their team.

MR is compiling the results of the Golden Mic for 2017 and these will be ready to publish in the next few days. MR will work with GL to create good publicity for the Golden Mic results.

TB flagged the need to review the admins in the VATSIM Facebook group. GL believed that this sat with the new VP Marketing and Communications.

Action: GL to brief the new VP Marketing and Communications on the need to ensure there are sufficient administrators for all social media platforms.

REGIONS (JH)

Applications have closed for the vacant Regional Director positions for Africa/Middle East and Oceania and interviews are taking place this coming week. Jackson plans to have recommendations to the BoG for voting in the next fortnight.

JH reported on the demerger of the combined Africa division back into two divisions, and returned the Africa/Middle East Region to four divisions. JH has addressed their issues of things that occurred during the merger so far, things are functioning well.

JH is working with VATSIM Europe now that they have managed to get their website back online.

Don Desfosse has resigned as the Division Director of VATUSA. The BoG recorded its thanks and appreciation to Don for his dedication and years of service to VATUSA.

The BoG welcomed Mark Hubbert to the role of Division Director of VATUSA and wished him all the best for his tenure.

Ray Lang (Oceania DRD) has suffered ill health recently and has had limited ability to give to the Network. Ray is slowly returning to better health and is returning to active duty. The BoG recorded its best wishes to Ray for a speedy recovery.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION (NB)

NB was not present at the meeting, so no report was available.

VIRTUAL AIRLINES AND SOA (RC)

RC reported a very quiet quarter. There has been a change in Director of Virtual Airline relations; Volker Jacob has taken over this role and is doing an excellent job.

RC has been discussing VASOPs website with Matt Cianfarani and he is looking at what he can do to improve this for the team.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS (GL)

GL reiterated what MR had advised in his report that Deon Matthews had stepped down the Social Media front and personally acknowledged Deon for his work.

VATSIM has continually enhanced social networking presence and this must continue. Between GL and MR, this is continuing until the new VP Marketing and Communications has been appointed. We have had a continued increase in Twitter and Facebook followers.

GL suggested that we needed to branch out to other social media platforms including Instagram and YouTube. This is something that the new VP Marketing and Communications can consider.

SUPERVISORS (TB)

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

Callum McLoughlin has been permanently appointed to the role as Senior Supervisor of Team Four.

The Supervisor ticketing system continues to be used, with more use noticed.

There have been ongoing issues with some Supervisors suspending new users with no discipline history or not documenting CERT and this is being addressed on an individual basis.

TB stated there continue to be issues with issues occurring off the network flowing over onto the Network. He is working with the Founders on the best way to address these issues.

The XSquawkbox issue continues and TB has provided Supervisors with alternate ways to contact XSquawkbox users.

MEMBERSHIP (DG)

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

Brad Lee has stepped down as a Membership Manager. He has not yet been replaced.

PILOT TRAINING (DP)

DP was not present at the meeting, so no report was available.

7. OTHER BUSINESS (ALL)

BOG MEETING MINUTES (MR)

MR reported that he was finding it more and more problematic to keep minutes and actively participate in the meeting and complete other tasks. This will only get worse as the VATSIM strategy work sees greater responsibility on the VP Operations to oversee the strategy.

The discussion will take place out of the meeting as to the best way forward.

MR promised to have the minutes of this meeting out sooner.

EUROPEAN GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (JH)

The European General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) was enacted by the European Parliament in 2016 with enforcement from May 2018. There are significant requirements to comply and penalties for non-compliance. The reach is not only for Europe but anyone who has anything to do with data held by people living in Europe. This extends to organisations such as VATSIM given the data we hold on members.

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY at 21:49z

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY at 22:03z

It was agreed that VATSIM needed to give earnest consideration to this legislation and GL had already taken the matter up with VATSIM's legal counsel to the Founders and they are dealing with the issue.

VATSIM TEAMSPEAK (MR)

MR reported there continue to be issues with BoG members joining the VATSIM TeamSpeak server. He will investigate options including either reducing the security measures or looking at alternatives including Discord.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 22:06z.

Next Meeting Saturday 26 May 2018 at 20:00z

Action Items:

1. **GL** to brief the new VP Marketing and Communications on the need to ensure there are sufficient administrators for all social media platforms.