



VATSIM Board of Governors'

Meeting Minutes

9th January 2010

I. Call to order

David Klain called to order the regular meeting of the VATSIM Board of Governors' at 1215z on 9th January, 2010 online via TeamSpeak.

II. Register

David called the register. The following persons were present:

David Klain
Luca Benelli
Roland Collins
Mike Evans
Steven Cullen arrived at 1231z
Kyle Ramsey - Holds Steven C proxy
Florian Harms
George Papanikolopoulos
Terry Scanlan
Norman Blackburn – Holds Michael Z proxy – Left at 1336z (proxies to Terry S.)

Apologies:
Michael Zazula

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Previous minutes not tabled. – Approved by BoG vote and distributed 19th October 2009.

IV. Open issues

a) Global Rating Policy (Roland C and Terry S)

Terry recapped the rollout on the January 1st 2010, rollout items successfully put into operation, including forum, email address set up, appears to be continued misunderstanding of local rules. Roland continues to monitor and provide EC support. GRP appears to be well accepted by general membership. Questions as expected nothing controversial received to date.

b) VATSIM website/CMS Update (Florian H and Mike E)

Executive Session started at 1220z.
Executive Session finished at 1251z

c) Cert Upgrade Update with EC requests (Mike E)

Modifications introduced to allow the system to automatically start processing regional transfers. Looking at improvements to transfer notifications, including Welcome letters, reason for transfer. CERT upgrade to show the last 20 broadcast messages. Terry stated this covers most of the EC requests. Dave K thanks Mike E for all his hard work and the great new look of the CERT.

d) VATSIM Stats Review (Steven C submit by email)

No Statistics provided, will be sent out by email once completed.

e) Pilot Ratings Update (Kyle R)

Anticipating one (1) month of beta testing from the 1st Feb, 2010, with the aim to release the P1 questions/test on or around 1st March, 2010. Based on forum conversations Kyle is looking at ways to scale back the VATSIM involvement in the training, allowing ATO's to provide interesting and unique training methods not necessarily cemented in the FAA model.

ATO definitions and guidelines to be provided in the next month, to be only a few pages. Planning on P2, P3 and P4 continues.

f) Broadcast messages (Michael Z and Steven C) by email

Final draft of policy sent to working party, with commitment to present to BoG by 17th January, 2010.

g) CoR amendment for C3 (Dave K)

David still waiting for final wording to be returned from George (GSM), once received it will be sent out to the BoG mailing list for comment and vote.

h) Publicity, Keeping VATSIM visible (Florian H)

Adjourned to next meeting pending discussions with Steven C. David K made comments on needing to increase presence in online communities, with regards to press releases, VATSIM activities etc. with the aim to attract new members.

V. New issues

a) VATSIM and Real World Relationship (Terry S)

Terry (VATGOV2) has been receiving regular requests for using VATSIM resources for "real world" training, in both ATC and pilot roles. A member from the Salt Lake City region has made contact requesting to train student pilots currently undergoing their real world training, to get them used to correct ATC phraseology. The thought was students could use the VATSIM ATC system to practice and increase confidence in communicating with ATC. Not sure of plans of action or setup, idea was pitched for feedback from BoG.

The second request came as a result of BoG meeting agenda, a member has identified that the FAA has some interest in VATSIM and its (VATSIM's) activities and how they could use them for training their own people.

The purpose of raising these requests was to highlight that there are issues involved and discussion is needed on how we handle the requests and how the needs will be sorted out. David stated that this may need to go to the founders for guidance and final acceptance. David also stated that a policy will be drafted and presented to the BoG for a formal vote in the future and that BoG members should be prepared for this. Terry raised the possibility of expanding the discussion to include commercial operations.

b) FSS Policy (Roland C)

There is no official FSS policy, currently strictly controlled by BoG. An approval system is now in place via the GRP2 document with approval falling to the EC. Roland is requesting an update to the CoC to reflect that the FSS suffix cannot be used without BoG approval. David stated the need to wait for the results of the current Australian FSS/UIR test before further comments can be made about using FSS for centre control positions.

Terry advised that the Australian/VATPAC UIR trial is underway, it has been slow to start but the VATPAC Board has been promoting the use via local forums.

Roland clarified the trial parameters, was not traffic increase but rather network load issues. David confirmed this.

c) VATSIM Email Spam Filter

Steven mentioned the number of spam emails seemed to be increasing, and whilst acknowledging Mike's efforts in reducing the spam, asked if other methods or software had been investigated. Steven mentioned the "Gmail" business email accounts. Mike explained that this was not a good option for VATSIM, and said he would investigate further filter options. Luca and Mike exchanged a program which Mike ran resulting in immediate reduction of spam emails.

d) New SUP Applications (Michael Z) by email

New supervisors emailed to BoG emailing list. Norman commented on behalf of Michael that besides those names already set aside via email, all others appeared to be suitable candidates. David stated that the new Supervisor (recruitment) system seems to be working. BoG are making comments on potential supervisors if and when necessary, Michael is taking note of the comments and suggestions, and if BoG members have further comments to make please do so, Michael can then move forward and bring these new Supervisors online. Norman supported David's view on the new Supervisor system.

e) Other Business

Luca – Web page reference guide. Publish a guide for divisional/regional/vACC websites on posting links on their websites to local charts, visiting controller rosters and other essential items. Encourage the publishing of pilot assistance pages. Not mandated. Roland to take to the EC for discussion with GRP2 in mind.

Mike – PRC server to be going offline at the end of February. This includes USA-West FSD. Terry, David, Mike and Luka to follow up. Steven offered further space on the server Mike has used for Servinfo data for PRC. Steven and Mike to discuss further.

Terry – Forum BoG/EC/Division Directors. As previously discussed, a general forum for all to participate in. Steven to organize set up, including new DD group.

Executive session start 13:39z

Executive session ends 13:47z

Luca – Request for a member to sign a NDA. What is the procedure? It is referred to Mike and George (GSM). The process does take some time as each NDA is individually written for each member.

Do we have any news on VP – Development – The answer was no, not at this time, but it is a priority. Further discussions welcome by email.

Roland – Executive Session start: 13:51z

Executive session ends: 13:55z

David – appreciates everyone's hard work, we are moving forward even if does appear slow. GRP2 and Pilot ratings are huge projects, and we will move forward in the New Year with new projects.

VI. Adjournment

David Klain called to adjourn the meeting, seconded by **Mike Evans**. Meeting adjourned at **13:57z**. The next quarterly meeting is due March 2010. It is planned that the meeting will be held on or around the weekend of March 20th 2010.

Minutes submitted by: **Steven Cullen – VATSIM Vice President Communications**

Minutes approved by: **BoG vote**