



VATSIM Board of Governors'

Meeting Minutes

17th December 2011

Agenda

Old Business

- VATSIM Survey – Roger
- New Developments – Wade
- Registration Page/Cert Changes - Christoph

New Business

- Pilot Ratings – P2 – Kyle
- VATSIM Communications – Steven/Flo
- Membership report – Jim
- Conflict Resolution - Norman

Other Business

- EC Report - Peter

Prior to the addressing the agenda items of the meeting Steven thanked and recognized the service of Terry Scanlan, acknowledging the resignation of Terry. It was recognized that Terry had provided an excellent service over the years. All members of the BoG gave their thanks and appreciation to their former colleague.

Call to order

Steven Cullen called to order the regular meeting of the VATSIM Board of Governors' at 21:12z on 17th December, 2011 online via TeamSpeak.

Register

Steven called the register. The following persons were present:

Florian Harms (FH)
Kyle Ramsey (KR)
Luca Benelli (LB):
Roger Curtiss (RC)
Steven Cullen (SC)
Norman Blackburn (NB)

Peter Nielsen (PN) Peter joined the meeting at 21:25z

Apologies:

Jeff Turner (JU)
David Klain (DK)
Jim Johnson (JJ)
Christoph Neukirch (CN)

Steven holds Dave and Jim's proxy
Norman holds Jeff's proxy
Luca holds Christoph's proxy

Total votes available – 11

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Previous minutes not tabled. – Approved by BoG vote and distributed 14th October, 2011

Old Business

A. VATSIM Survey – Roger

SC asked if the survey was going to use the questions from the previous survey or if this survey was going to be a complete rewrite. RC responded, saying that the plan was to use the previous survey as the starting point, keeping many of the questions to allow the measurement of the differences in response. Additionally solicitation of survey content was met with a limited response, leading to the plan of starting with the old survey, tweaking questions as required to remove questions that are no longer relevant and adding new questions.

B. New Developments – Wade

SC will ask Wade to email the BoG list with any relevant news regarding development activities

C. Registration Page/Cert Changes - Christoph

CN will email a report to the BoG list.

New Business

A. Pilot Ratings – P2 – Kyle

SC invited KR to discuss the progress made with the P2 and P3 ratings. KR responded that he had just accepted Canadian Express as the first P2 certified ATO. KR explained the P2 rating is basically being able to hand fly the aircraft, with the interesting addendum that an agreement was reached were the ATO could choose the aircraft type for the rating, essentially meaning that we could have the B744 being used, although the approval of aircraft is part of the application process, which allows KR the opportunity to challenge the aircraft choice. The P3 (VFR) rating is almost complete, with the finalization of the check ride in progress, with a projected finish in approximately two (2) weeks. With regards to the IFR rating the content has been laid out, with the criteria behind it and the check ride a work in progress. KR mentioned that he has several new ATO's, mentioning that the UK is almost ready to start, several new VA's and an expanded EUD program has been proposed.

SC thanked KR for the report, and commented on the constructive comments and level of maturity that has been displayed in the Pilot Ratings forums, with regard to building the different ratings and course content. KR responded that he was happy working with them. FH commented that from his observations with the German vACC pilot training department that the interest in obtaining the pilot rating was still quite high, which was good, and that KR was doing a great job and being supported by his team, and he sees a real need for it. SC stated that he had seen comments on the forums that members had completed their rating at XXX ATO and had a good experience, which was a great thing to see. KR stated that this been a consistent feedback that they have been getting, members who have been on the network 10+ years saying that they learnt something they didn't know, and they are proud of their rating, displaying them in the forum and their signatures.

KR acknowledged that CN was not available to answer currently, added that while they program was at the P2 stage the website was in a position to record the ratings, but once we go to P3 the system in CERT will no longer work. FH commented that he was speaking with CN recently who indicated he was aware of the issues and requirements KR has for Pilot Ratings.

B. VATSIM Communications – Steven/Flo

SC explained this item related to the disbandment of the VP – Communications position and the redistribution of the duties amongst VP – Marketing and Development and VP – Operations.

SC invited FH to discuss the breakdown, which is currently awaiting verification from the Founders. SC added that even though FH and SC were sharing the news and events posting duties, it was important that all members of the BoG posted any news they had, with FH offering lessons in the use of the backend system if required.

FH also debated the Hit Squad management, and the most appropriate VP to manage this activity. FH felt that PN as Regions VP would be the best person, as he knows what the regions activities are, and it removes a layer of reporting requirements, as he is already in contact with the people that the Hit Squad would be working with. SC was hesitant to accept this, and deferred the matter to allow for the verification from Founders.

C. Membership Retention – Jim

SC will ask JJ to email the BoG list with news regarding the membership department.

D. Conflict Resolution - Norman

Due to NB having to reboot his PC, this subject was held over to after PN's EC report.

NB asked that we move to executive session to discuss his proposal.

Meeting moved into executive session at time 2231z
Executive session ended at 22:54z

Other Business

A. Report from Peter on EC matters

PN stated that communications with the EC was good, there was plenty of activity going on with Asia and he wished to discuss the new ASEA_FSS trial. The trial would run for 30 days from December 1st, with one or two people manning the position nearly every night. It is too soon to say if it will increase traffic or not. PN's gave a round up on regional issues, including the continued practice of local kingdom building, with their solution offered to seek the Founders through GSM to re-write the current CoR and CoC to include definitive outlines of divisions and vACC's powers or authority. PN asked NB for his thoughts and comments, to which NB replied that he had similar ideas, but was hesitant in taking it down to vACC level. PN explained the goal was not only to define what they could not do, but to also define what they could do, as this is the level where the work is done and the issues arise. NB agreed, but was hesitant to allow vACC level suspensions. PN suggested he and NB would reach out to GSM to see where they can go. NB agreed. KR stated he feels GSM will respond that we have more than enough rules defining behavior already and we don't need division rules for that. PN stated that the problem is that the divisional level is much more active and much more important than the regional level. KR asked what is stopping them from enforcing CoC and why do they need additional rules.

PN commented that one issue the EC has is duplication of information storage, and problems with uploading information to the website, and there is a lack of consensus of where to exactly upload information, with the latest EC minutes now found in 3 different places. PN asked FH to write a very basic instruction sheet for the correct uploading of documents. FH agreed.

Discussion moved to the SAS system and was there anything that BoG members could do to assist JU whilst the current system was under repair. The merits of returning to the old system temporarily were discussed with the conclusion this would probably not help. SC stated that he would email JU after the meeting regarding the SAS and an update on activities.

PN broached the subject of rating restructure, stating he was expecting a full report from the EC. PN recapped that the proposal centre around restructuring the ratings so all "S" ratings were "Students" and all "C" ratings were "Controllers" or "Competent" on the GRP. PN stated that he has been talking with the tech team including LB, CN and the developers of various applications. PN believes after these talks it is not as big a job as he first believed to accomplish, including the FSD rewrite. SC asked what PN saw as the biggest hurdle to having the project approved. PN relied the biggest hurdle is the rewrite of the FSD server, the next biggest will be the tech stuff, including the rewriting of all VATSIM related manuals, clients, etc. and is why this would not come in until late 2012. NB stated that LB may know, he asked is it correct that currently the FSD looks at the rating as says they are rating 12 and can connect at any level including 12, and this is done by the server rather than the client. LB responded that he thinks it is the FSD but he is not sure. NB voiced concern that if it was true, then the change would mean a member would be only be able to log on as one rating, not as in the current scenario of a supervisor or admin being able to log on as a SUP or ADM or other staff position plus their current controller rating if they just wanted to control. I.E they would only be able to sign in as rating 5, not 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 as they currently can. The NDA was also identified as a major hurdle for the development. SC stated that he was happy to take the issue of obtaining an electronic form of the NDA to RJ and GSM.

SC suggested before making any decision, that we wait until we receive the official proposal and read what they have to offer and what changes will be required.

Returning to the discussions on ASEA_FSS PN asked if we want to consider it an Overland FSS or an Oversea FSS. SC stated that they (VATASIA) appear very keen to have the service with it manned competently each time he has looked. PN clarified if it was an oversea FSS it was an EC matter, if it was a Overland FSS it was a BoG matter. SC replied it was his opinion that as the ASEA_FSS facility was controlling aircraft from the ground up, at major airports then it should be an Overland facility. PN agreed and clarifying that LB had seen no server issues related to the new facility, asked for a vote on whether to allow the ASIA region to keep the facility or not. NB seconded the motion.

The role was called and votes counted. Including proxy votes there were 11 votes Yes, 0 votes No and 1 absent with no vote counted. The motion to accept the ASEA FSS was carried.

Adjournment

Steven Cullen adjourned the meeting at 22:56z. The next meeting date is to be advised.

Minutes submitted by: Steven Cullen – VATSIM Vice President Operations

Minutes approved by: BoG vote