VATSIM Board of Governors'
Meeting Minutes
October 6th, 2012

Old Business
✦ **VP Marketing Report - Florian**
✦ **VP Web Services Report - Christoph**
✦ **VP VASOP Report - Roger**
✦ **VP Operations Report - Steven**

New Business
✦ **IT task list priority – All**
✦ **End of year goals - All**

Other Business
✦ **EC Feedback & Regions Report - Peter**
✦ **Questions from members – Steven/All**
      o **Database speeds**

Attendees: Florian Harms (FH)

        Jeff Turner (JU)

        Kyle Ramsey (KR)

        Peter Nielsen (PN)

        Steven Cullen (SC)

        Christoph Neukirch (CN)

        Roger Curtis (RC)

Apologies: Luca Benelli (LB) proxy to CN, Norman Blackburn (NB) proxy to JU

Absent: Jim Johnson (JJ), Wade Williams (WW)

AGENDA

Old Business

1.VP Marketing Report - FH
2. VP Web Services Report - CN
3. VP VASOP Report - RC

4. VP Operations Report - SC

New Business

1. IT task list priority – All
2. End of year goals - All

3. Other Business

4. EC Feedback & Regions Report - PN
5. Questions from members – SC/All

    5.1 Database speeds

SC began by asking for a motion to thank David Klain (DK) for his service to VATSIM as both GOV1 and GOV2 before that, and also thanked Wade Williams (WW) for his role as VP Development over the last couple of years and hoped they both would continue being part of VATSIM and enjoy the network in the future.

SC further congratulated KR to his new role as VP Operations. PN motioned, FH seconded, the motion carried.

The meeting was called to order at 21:03z by SC

FH commenced by advising that the marketing activity is improving with the formation of the local marketing manager's forum from each area getting steadily more active. This gives local marketing and event managers the ability to share best practices and learn from each other.

FH continued by reminding that Marketing is about communicating across all membership levels and get all members interested in the services VATSIM community have to share.

World Flight 2012 is fast approaching and as usual this generates a lot of activity and publicity, but this is just one event on the network, there are so many others and each creates stories to share amongst us all.

The Web site is technically becoming outdated and new web site is under development, the hope is that this new website will be more inclusive and will be delivering more and interesting service to our members.

VATSIM as a whole needs to create a community platform for all members, regardless if ATC or Pilots not one or the other and this concept needs to be adopted by each and every official entity of VATSIM and this obviously means that all information provided and displayed ion any site should attract both sides of the scope at all times.

A few VATSIM entities have lately been reported to be using the VATSIM brand for production and external marketing. Since the VATSIM official brand and logo is not to be without a written approval by the Founders this is proving to be a challenge considering the potential public relation these real life get together have. As such VATSIM should work towards producing dedicated brand and logos for external marketing approved by the BoG. **SC** will discuss this matter with the founders.

CN advised that he had unfortunately been extremely busy over the summer which meant that his VATSIM activities had been reduced, he was however happy to state he was catching up with emails and sorting through requests and issues and could again commit more time.

CN shared his current list of projects and ideas with those members present, amongst them his current plan to get more qualified members to join his IT team.

JU advised he had an individual who has expressed interest in working on the Supervisor Application Service (SAS) project. **CN** indicated that he would reach out to this member and ascertain the requirements.

CN mentioned that a number of members had asked how we could increase the speed on our data bases, unfortunately the current data base setup is not the most efficient when it comes to speed or growth, as an example re-indexing the table would mean a whole day off time with no reporting nor collection of data. **CN** further advised he is consulting with an expert on databases in order to solve this issue.

RC stated that daily operations are going fine with more VA's asking to be members joining faster than those that drop off due to audits. Using other resources to code the VA Partner system tools has proven difficult to keep the project on track. As far as Human Resource there is need for more input and assistance and **RC** would advertise for more team members shortly.

The VA Audit Manager team is working arranging an event with VA Partners Only to increase traffic in a number of areas with awards being provided by commercial vendor-sponsors.

RC is also working on a project with **FH** to collect from the VA partner's monthly data that would display live hours, pilots and statistics of each participating VA, sort of a "VA Hour Ticker". **PN** asked all to be cautions in the need to stay neutral to VA groups in general and not only help the big ones. He asked how we would know what VA a person is a member of; **RC** suggests it would be submitted by the VA's themselves. **RC** will post the proposal to gauge interest in the added value to the partnership.

RC continued giving an update on the new VATSIM survey he is tasked with in order to not only get better insight into the needs of all members, but also Managers on both side of the scope. **SC** and **FH** to partner with **RC** to help him keep moving this forward. **FH** feels that the survey should be done as soon as possible as it will help us with marketing in general so it has both immediate and long term benefits.

SC Reviewed the stats for the quarter to the end of August, and these were hard to understand as only 47% of the people who signed up actually went and logged onto the network itself using a client (data was filtered for duplicates). **SC** asked **CN** for clarification on the rating structure within CERT, specifically number 3 in the ratings field with mind to recent Pilot rating additions **CN** stated that the code in question relates to the S2 rating.

PN asked about the stats that used to be provided on a monthly basis. These reports are very valuable but they have stopped and he wondered how we can get these restarted. **KR** advised that **RJ** does SQL queries on regular basis and the data is then filtered to produce the graphs and stats seen but the analysis part is not trivial to produce. **KR** will look into getting the basic queries required and to set them up as reports.

Note to the minutes: these will be set up within the reports section of CERT

New Business:

SC IT Task List/Priority – **CN** had distributed his list at the beginning of his report and it covered this topic entirely.

CN reports he and **LB** are looking at ways to get the pilot ratings history into the current Database set up

SC End of Year Goals – VATSIM indicators are up and ready for testing. **SC** asks for short term projects we can get done by the end of the year to show energy and provide value for our members. **SC** suggests one thought that seems achievable would be a member's page that displays history of the ratings, ATC and Pilot, and stats, including official badges as this will increase member perception, retention and give value to

members.

PN asked for a motion to change the country listing on various documents that have changed due to realities and changing VATSIM demographics, the proposed new groupings were sent to all BoG members prior to the meeting for review. The motion was seconded by **JU**. Vote recorded:

PN- For

CN – For

FH – For

JU – For

KR – For

RC – For

SC – For

LB (CN) – For

NB (JU) – For

The motion passes.

Executive Session Entered at 21:55z

Left Executive Session at 22:15z

SC - The member question was answered above about database speed.

SC opened a discussion about holding a physical VATSIM convention. Finding interesting, accessible, and affordable location with local support to help do ground work. The idea has strong support within the BoG members in attendance. Discussion centered on suggestions for sites that would fit the criteria above, the focus becoming Western Europe. Other considerations were security and access, suitable hotel with meeting rooms and catering plus ability to have PC and laptop connections. Timing discussions around late autumn in, weather is changing and it is a busy tourist season in Western Europe. Timing will collide with an event in Vienna as well as World Flight. Frankfurt became the model city to try to build on, **FH** will look at what is available in Frankfurt for October next year, and we will nominate 2-3 alternative locations to compare to Frankfurt.

SC - asked for a motion to adjourn, motion made by **FH**, seconded by **KR**.

Meeting was adjourned at 22:33z