

VATSIM Board of Governors

Q4 2013 Meeting Minutes

Jan 26, 1900z

Open Meeting, Record Attendance and Proxies

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Opening Business:

Record adhoc votes since last meeting - Kyle

Old Business:

- * Regions Update - Peter
- * Pilot Training Update - Pan
- * VA/VSOA Update - Roger
- * Membership Update - Jim
- * Supervisor Update - Jeff
- * VP Development and Web Replacement Update - Steven
- * Client Development Update - Kyle

New Business

- * Founder's Feedback - Steven
- * Vienna Convention Update - Steven
- * Website Options - Steven
- * Region Restructure - Peter

Other Business

- * Questions from Members - All

Close Meeting and Adjourn

Attendees:

Jeff Turner (JU)

Peter Nielsen (PN)

Kyle Ramsey (KR)

Pan L alas (PL)

Luca Benelli (LB)

Justin Freidland (JF)

Apologies: Jim Johnson (JJ) proxy to PN, Steven Cullen (SC) and Roger Curtiss (RC) proxy to KR

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 20:08z by KR

KR recorded there were three BoG votes since the Q3 2013 BoG meeting:

South American Regional Director (VATSA1)

Results: (10 votes cast)

Federico Navarro **10**

There were two other candidates who received no votes.

Appoint Justin Friedland as Vice-President of Marketing & Strategic Development - VATGOV10

Results: (9 votes cast)

Yes	8
Abstain	1
No	0

Votes for the motion:

To approve the minutes of the BoG quarterly meeting of Oct 18, 2013 @ 2000z, as emailed to all BoG members, for general release and publishing on the VATSIM website.

Proposed by: Kyle Ramsey

Voting closes: 18-Dec-2013

Kyle Ramsey	FOR
Steven Cullen	FOR
Norman Blackburn	FOR
Pan L alas	FOR
Roger Curtiss	FOR
Peter Ingerslev Nielsen	FOR
Luca Benelli	FOR

With 7 votes for the motion, and 0 votes against the motion was passed.

Pilot Training Report – PL –

- Held 4 hour meeting with staff.
- 40 active ATOs
- Looking at quality vs quantity
- Looking at stepping up ATO requirements, working with the ATOs.
- KR responds that he supports the effort to improve the quality of ATO program delivery.
- Team talked about quality control; John brings tools from his professional educator background we plan to use for assessment, starting with self assessments and build on that to make more effective auditing for the VATSIM side.
- Asking ATOs to tell us what they have learned in their first year in operation.
- Next steps are to grow the ratings offerings within the existing ATOs
- Students are asking for more rating opportunities.
- Plan to work with Justin on how to better market ATOs and pilot training on VATSIM.
- P9 has been repaired and part of the Pilot Academy where it will be delivered along with the P1.
- Luca is working on some web work to set up the Pilot Academy
- Possible changes to the higher ratings, P7 (mil), 8 (helo), and 9 (CFI).
- See a need for CFIs have some higher network rights to be able to do their duties. The 'how' will need some non-trivial work within the network and CERT. CFIs would potentially use VRC or ES to deliver their services. PN emphasized how important we provide key enabling tools to give pilot training the best traction possible and online people teaching pilots to fly is a breakthrough for bringing pilots into VATSIM.
- KR thanked Pan for his leadership and the great team he has assembled and how well they have grasped the vision of pilot training, especially it's flexibility in delivery solutions.
- Pan emphasized the need for integrated tools to help pull pilot training into the new Pilot Academy to help overcome the shortcomings of the tools within the current CERT.

Region Update – PN -

- Appreciate the work of Jim, Norman, and Steven over the past few months especially in Asia.
 - Al Tang has given notice that due to real life commitments he will step down at the end of February .
- Europe challenges with lots of people changing seats.
 - Andres Fuchs resigned his vACC post, but it was expected.
 - Thanks specifically to Svilen for his help in the background.
- South America has a new RD, elected just after the BoG meeting
- Feedback from all levels is pilot quality; since pilot training is not mandatory why is controller training?
 - PL asked what specific ideas he had to address the last issue.
 - PN responds unless the Founder ban on mandatory pilot training changes it is not likely to have much effect.
 - KR suggests asking the Founders to implement CoC B13, the constraint being is there enough ATO support to handle those put through the program
 - PN suggests with the start up of the Pilot Academy we should be able to handle large numbers of pilots since it is all automated.
 - KR asks all BoG members to go review the B13 proposal as posted by RJ and be prepared to discuss if we ask to turn it on, maybe with some adjustments. The program is voluntary still, but would help provide an unlucky but uneducated pilot a path to avoid a DCRM action if they complete the program and is a tool offered by the Founders so we should look at it before asking for anyone else.
 - Identified Issues:
 - Language – if a pilot from Korea gets suspended will P1 programs in his language be available?
 - Voluntary only so only addresses pilots who are otherwise willing to learn the right way to do things and accept education
 - How to track all this in CERT?
- PN asks about the language change to CoR as requested back in Oct. relative to languages on VATSIM. KR will work with Steven on this.

- **No update**

Supervisors – JU –

- 98 current supervisors on 4 teams with another 40 candidates in the pipeline
- Looking to add about 5 sups at a time so as not to overload the training resources.
- PN asks about coverage for sups in Asia?

VP Development/Web Update – SC –

- No report; KR did send a name to SC recently
- PN asks if we have any candidates in the queue? KR responds he is not aware of any.
- PL asks that LB be a part of future selection committees.

Pilot Client Update – KR –

- Ross is in development of a simple client as well that is getting good reception. He is in limited beta
- The other client seems to be moving along, they plan to present it at W14 to the world.

Founder's Feedback – SC –

- No formal feedback from founders.

New Business

W14 Update – KR –

Executive Session – 2059z

Out – 2117z

Region Restructure – PN -

- Some changes in Africa we are looking at

Member Questions – KR -

- Has VATSIM considered promoting itself by taking a larger role in the flightsim community, I.E., having more general discussion board, hosting a download library, etc?
 - We think there are other elements of the larger FS community that do these

things better than we do and our goal is to remain friendly with them and look for opportunities to collaborate where we can.

- I would like to ask for the Code of Regulations document downloadable from the VATSIM.net website to be updated to reflect the current BoG and EC personnel.
 - KR to email GSM regarding these edits
- I am interested if the BoG would consider changing Code of Regulations §3.10 A. 3. to allow for VATSIM members rated lower than C3 to become members of the Regional Conflict Resolution Panel. Main reason for this question is that in VATUSA, unless a member wants to become an I1/I3 or become engaged in SUP/ADM duties, she/he can no longer reach a level of C3 unless that rating was held before. Apart from the existing waiver, would it be a possibility to allow the Regional Directors to select the RCRP members based on applications and background checks without the rating requirement (or one lower than C3)?
 - CoR already allows RDs to waive the C3 requirement.
- Request that a slight modification be considered to GRP para 4.5a(1), as follows:
 1. Be limited to one training airport, andto:
 1. Be limited to one training approach facility (i.e. TRACON/TMA), and
 - By it's very nature, an Approach (TRACON/TMA) controller works at a facility that provides approach and departure services for one or more (usually more) airports. One cannot realistically open an Approach position and only provide services for one airport, denying service for other underlying airports to VATSIM pilots. I'm sure the wording was a simple oversight, so I'm hopeful that would be an agreeable change/correction.
 - We will send this to the EC who controls the GRP.
- Can VATSIM be more open to those whose knowledge of English is poor? By adding one step before the registration we can redirect them to some kind of explanatory page in one of the main ICAO languages. I suppose this feature will cover those regions where English is not studied well.
 - We would love to be more inclusive with regard to use of ICAO recognized languages and be able to offer our site to those. We are open to proposals on how to do this and more importantly always looking for the talent to lead such teams to bring projects of this scale to completion.
- Is there any possibility in the registration form to prohibit usage of non-English (Roman) letters and names in CAPS.
 - LB to look into this

- Would Vatsim consider a program either separately or part of the new pilot client that will require pilots to enter position reports (or in effect check in) at regular intervals to avoid pilots from leaving while online. I would suggest every hour over land and every two hours over water in uncontrolled airspace.
 - We are always interested in new features that add value to the VATSIM experience without detracting from the realism. Today we have the VATSIM Supervisors who patrol the virtual skies using a few specially built tools to monitor aircraft that may be unresponsive to radio calls.

Meeting was adjourned at 2139z per KR, seconded by JU.