



VATSIM Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes

Regular Session Meeting, 3rd Quarter 2016

November 5, 2016

I. Call to order

Chairman Nicola Felini (NF) – North America Region Director called to order the Normal Session of the VATSIM Executive Committee (EC) at 2103z on November 5, 2016 on TeamSpeak. The special session was held in accordance with the VATSIM Code of Regulations §3.08, sub-section B. The meeting was requested by Chairman Nicola Felini.

II. Roll call

A. Present:

Regional Director Thomas Mathieu (**TM**) – Africa & Middle East Region
(minutes)

Regional Director Apostolos Damkalis (**AD**) – Europe Region

Chairman Nicola Felini (**NF**) – North America Region

Regional Director Jackson Harding (**JH**) – Oceania Region

Regional Director Federico Navarro (**FN**) – South America Region (joined meeting later in progress)

B. Apologies:

Regional Director Anastasios Stefopoulos (**AS**) – Asia Region (Proxy to AD)

Regional Director Apostolos Damkalis (**AD**) – Europe Region (multiple drops from the network due to connection issues). (No proxy)

C. Auditors:

President Kyle Ramsey (**KR**) – Board of Governors



III. General and New Business

A. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting - FN

- Approval requested for previous special meeting of the EC as published.

MOTION – TM SECOND – NF

None opposed: MOTION CARRIED

- Minutes accepted as published.

B. Hit Squad – CONTINUED - FN, JH

- Coordinator job posting:
 - Job posting has been posted to VATSIM forum.
 - Deadline Nov 14th, 2016
 - FN requested to KR to send Notam to all VATSIM members and RD's to pass along to their Divisions.
 - Topic will remain open through the next regular meeting.

C. GRP Audit Team – NF

- Team members of the audit team were presented to the EC.
- All regions except Asia presented their selection of the audit team member. Asia will submit member to EC at a later date.
- Candidates will be presented to the EC. TM will consolidate the list of appointees and create 2 teams.
- TM will oversee and direct both teams' audit activities and project schedules.
- TM brought up potential access issues for the auditors and how auditors can access each ARTCC, vACC areas under audit.
- KR took the action to discuss with IT log in issues for the audit team to ensure they have full access to the audited sites.
- TM suggested perhaps a “show and tell” approach where the audited staff and auditor could use Team Viewer to share screens to show auditor areas where the auditor does not have access.
- TM requested email distribution Ring for the Audit Team, KR took the action to setup. NF will direct.
- Auditor goals, correspondence and checklist will be developed by NF and TM.
- Timeline to start audits by Dec 1st.
- Each team will be based on best availability and a leader for each team will be designated by TM.



A motion by NF was submitted to for audit teams of 6 members, organized into 2 teams, led by TM as proposed.

MOTION – NF SECOND – TM

TM – Aye
AD proxy for AS – Aye
AD – Aye
NF – Aye
JH – Aye
FN – Aye

MOTION CARRIED

D. Restriction of training by Divisions and vACCs – NEW - TM

- TM forwarded reports of complaints received that training sites at a vACC was set to restrict, by default, new controllers transferring from other Regions. The site was visited but it could not be determined if the site restriction was due to a malfunction.
- Further TM received reports of transferees coming into the region putting demands on the effected vACC's
- EC discussed ongoing issues regarding transferring controllers.
- KR also reported findings of a recent study of transfers to the EC.
- EC discussed training queues which may cause spikes in transfers.
- Topic will be tabled and discussed at next regular meeting.

E. Proposal for new FSS for Southern FIRs in VATRUS Division - AD

- A written proposal was submitted by AD for discussion and approval.
- The FSS would provide top down services as submitted.
- Concerns about inter-fir cooperation were discussed. All are in agreement with the proposal.
- NF advised the EC of the FSS policy and trial period of new FSS position.
- FN submitted a motion to approve a 30-45 day network trial of the new FSS service in VATRUS as proposed.
- **MOTION – FN SECOND – NF**

TM – Aye
AS – (AD proxy) Aye
AD – Aye
NF – Aye
JH – Aye
FN – Aye

MOTION CARRIED



- 30-45 minute trial period was approved by the EC. AD will coordinate with BoG to begin trial.

F. Region Transfers and Ratings – **KR**

- KR briefed the EC on recent transfer trends and offered preliminary analysis of the data.
- The majority of transfer requests come from OBS/S1 rated members and expected as members explore and discover which region is best for them.
- The EC discussed transfer issues and the consolidation and verification training competencies.
- The EC discussed the ratings vs. local qualifications in more complex airspaces.
- The EC agreed the although that ratings are global, each region has it's own requirements and challenges. A global policy could not cover every aspected.

G. LOA request between Israel Division and Europe Division – **TM**

- TM advised the EC that the Israel Division will be requesting to establish a new agreement with Europe Division to authorize qualified Israeli controllers to log in as Euro-control South when controllers are absent, extending en-route control from Israel to Europe.
- TM informed the EC that there was an LOA some time ago, but was abandoned.
- TM and Israel will submit proposal to Europe Division.

H. Region Reports – **NF**

- Africa Middle East - **TM**:
 - Reported major staffing change in North Africa vACC which resulted in remarkable improvement in network activity and training.
 - Updated EC about the progress of reorganizing Africa back into 2 Divisions. The RD is working with the BoG to update the cert to reflect the new North and South division map.
 - Israel Division has introduced a new “built from the ground up” website with the goal to make their site friendlier to people flying into Israel. Their goal is to have fully English content in the near future so that the site is more pilot friendly.
 - Middle East is extremely active and status quo.
- Europe – **AD**
 - Applications received for a new membership director. Appointment to be announced. Member was selected and presented to the EC.
 - VATEUR2 submitted resignation due to personal real life commitments.



- Update on VATEUD to establish pilot training department was presented.
- VATUK: All training facilities are now open to local and visitor controllers except Heathrow.
- North America – **NF**
 - NF reported a pretty consistent quarter with no major issues or trends to report.
 - VATUSA staffing change: Ira Robinson will move over to staffing USA division. Other staffing position changes were presented.
 - Caribbean looking for staff applicants. They are also updating their web services with a new staff member taking over IT services.
 - VATCAN introduced new S1 self-paced program. This program requires no instructor intervention so improvements noted in training turnaround times. They have re-opened their training academy as a result.
 - VATUSA was report some training delays due to staffing changes.
 - New changes to VATUSA training site and programs being worked on.
 - VATCAR introduced a new Moodle based training site.
 - Gander Oceanic FIR is looking to add training staffing to re-establish training in the FIR.
 - VATUSA has 100 events scheduled so far this quarter.
 - New Regional staff opening for VATNA is ongoing a 2 applicants were received thus far.
- Oceania – **JH**
 - JH also reported a consistent quarter, with about 10% growth in new members. He also reported possible discrepancies with the new vs. members leaving the region and is looking into.
 - VATPAC continues to have a turn over of staffing changes.
 - VATPAC is evaluating upgrades to its IT services and sites.
 - VATNZ has changed some of its events schedule to better accommodate busy times on the network and moved its weekly major event to Saturdays.
 - VATNZ has also reported transfer and disciplinary issues that required regional support. JH has been working with VATNZ staff to deal with the influx of issues.
- South America – **FN**
 - FN is assisting Argentina with training improvements to bring the Division into compliance with the GRP.



- Brazil Division now has self-paced training system for S1 controllers. This is an effort to reduce the time needed for S1 controllers.
- Central America has to volunteers keeping network activity up and providing training. There has been a remarkable increase in online activity in this Division.
- Board of Governors Report – **KR**
 - The BoG was interviewing candidates for VP Regions and VP Sups.
 - VP Sups moved over to the role of VP Marketing.
 - The goal is to have both positions filled by BoG next meeting.
 - KR reported not much other activity due to real life commitments and some members have limited internet access when deployed away.
 - There have been no major membership issues reported.
 - A former network founder has rejoined the development team. The BoG has been getting this founder back into the mix and reacquainting him back to the network. The goal is to have sufficient backup and expertise to maintain smooth network operation.
 - Other BoG projects that were ongoing have been delayed by unexpected board member departures, but the BoG expects recovery once new appointees are in place.
 - KR has also presented to the EC that the BoG has setup two study groups to look at pilots and ATC. The ATC team lost a few members but the work continues, uninterrupted.
 - KR has informed the EC that they are prepared to come forward and define the expectations of the Executive committee. KR has requested a special meeting with the EC to discuss.



IV. Executive Sessions

- **The committee entered executive session at 2212z at the request of TM and ended session at 2216z**

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Nicola Felini adjourned the meeting at 2249z.

Minutes submitted by: Region Director Thomas Mathieu

Minutes approved on:

Minutes approved by: