VATSIM Board of Governors
Quarterly Meeting Minutes for October 22nd, 2005

Present:
Jeff Clark   (JC)
George Marinakis   (GSM)
Lefteris Kalamaras   (LK)
Mike Bevington   (MB)
Mike Zazula   (MZ)
Richard Jenkins   (RJ)
Roland Collins   (RC)

Apologies:
Robert Phillips previously indicated that he would be unable to attend, and via e-mail had given his proxy to Richard Jenkins.

Mr. Jenkins served as chair of the meeting.
Mr. Clark served as secretary.

The meeting was called to order by RJ at 1810Z.

I. Intermeeting Minutes

Mr. Clark presented a document for the BOG's approval summarizing the activities of the BOG between quarterly meetings, to be included in this meetings' minutes.

Mr. Marinakis indicated that he was concerned with the format of votes used in the draft document, which itemized each member's votes on matters such as appointment of Regional Directors.

Mr. Collins suggested it may not be appropriate to publicly document which candidates were supported by the various members of the BOG, as it may break the privacy of the vote, and potentially embarrass candidates who do not receive much support.

Mr. Jenkins agreed that it would be more sensitive to only show the winner of the vote, which would avoid publicly embarrassing those who were not appointed.

Mr. Clark agreed that we should avoid embarrassing those who do not win such appointments, and suggested that if individual vote counts were removed from the document that it may be acceptable to the BOG

Mr. Clark made a motion for approval of the "intermeeting minutes" document with the provision that individual vote tallies be edited to remove individual votes received by each candidate.

Mr. Kalamaras seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the BOG.

II.   User Survey

Mr. Clark introduced a draft user survey that he and Mr. Bevington were working on. The intention of the user survey was to find out opinions of VATSIM and our rival networks amongst those who enjoy online flying.

Mr. Kalamaras asked how it might be possible to include users of IVAO in the survey, as the BOG was interested in their opinions of our networks as well.

Mr. Jenkins agreed that it would be a good idea to try to survey more than just VATSIM users, noting that on a recent AVSIM survey, 2/3 of readers had no idea what VATSIM was. He indicated that it may be possible to approach AVSIM and Simflight to survey their users.

Mr. Kalamaras indicate that Francois Dumas at Simflight may be supportive of this effort, but that Flightsim.com, as it was strictly commercial, may not be as supportive.

Mr. Clark asked for permission to send out draft survey to the VATSIM staff list, for comments and possible new questions to include.

Mr. Jenkins indicated that with 90-100 members on the staff list, this may be too many people to ask for comments, and suggested just using the EC.

Mr. Collins indicated that the EC should indeed by consulted, but that the entire VATSIM management list may be more appropriate as it also includes founders, and noted that not everyone would reply in any case.

Mr. Clark suggested that further discussion on this item be conducted on the VATSIM mailing list, to give governors the opportunity to review the draft survey.

III. Development

Mr. Jenkins indicated that he was in the process of looking for a new V.P. of Development, but that Lefteris Kalamaras (interim VP) was doing an excellent job. Suggested that some developments needed to be discussed in executive session because of secrecy/confidentiality requirements.

Mr. Marinakis briefed new member Mr. Kalamaras on the meaning of "executive session", and Mr. Kalamaras indicated that his briefing should be conducted in executive session.

Mr. Marinakis moved that the BOG enter executive session.

Mr. Jenkins seconded the motion to enter executive session.

The BOG entered Executive Session at 1830Z to discuss development matters.

During Executive Session, founder Joel Lesser joined the meeting at 1906Z.

The BOG left Executive Session at 1914Z

Mr. Kalamaras noted that he would be collating a list of software projects currently being undertaken by VATSIM's developers, and would publish it for the BOG.

Mr. Schroeder joined the meeting at this point, at 1921Z.

IV. Pilots Resource Center (PRC)

Mr. Jenkins noted that work on the PRC was now moving more swiftly.

Mr. Bevington noted that the finished Pilot FAQ's had been moved to the Forums – Pilot Software Help, and that as of today, the PRC was now "unlocked" and did not require a logon ID to view the content.

Additionally, the content had been "tidied up" and users on forums were now able to link directly to needed content when an issue came up on the forum, which should help direct new users to the PRC.

With the completion of 101 courses, new lessons have been "identified" as needing writing, including 21 VFR lessons, 21 IFR lessons, 28 Intermediate lessons, 18 Advanced lessons. The lessons would be divided into 5 sections which would eventually be related to a pilot rating system on VATSIM. Mr. Bevington suggested that the ratings may be of the format "P1", "P2", etc., although this will need the support of the V.P. Development to implement, as server software will need to be changed. Mr. Bevington indicated that this was probably at least 6 months away, but would certainly happen.

At the present time, it was envisioned by Mr. Bevington that the P2 rating would probably mean "IFR rating only", P3 would mean "IFR & VFR", P4 would indicate "Captain", which would require completing all intermediate lessons and passing a proficiency test. To achieve the "Senior Captain" rating, the pilot would need to have shown proficiency via an online test.

Mr. Bevington indicated the next step was to start a large campaign recruiting authors for these lessons, and that he was consulting with VA's in hopes of having some of them contribute already written content from their respective websites. He had also recruited a volunteer to assist with the difficult job of translating all pilot training content into more languages.

At this time, Mr. Jenkins called a 10 minute recess of the BOG meeting, at 1950Z. The BOG re-convened at 2000Z.

V. COR Compliance:

Mr. Jenkins indicated that the COR specifically states that only the President can enter into legal agreements, and only then with agreement of the BOG. Mr. Jenkins noted that this may not have been strictly adhered to in the past, and he indicated that it was his intention to enforce this portion of the COR, and will shortly be presenting copies

of all NDA's, to be presented to the BOG for approval. It was Mr. Jenkins' indicated wish to try to include the BOG in more of the "day to day" running of the VATSIM.

Mr. Kalamaras enquired if the necessity to have the BOG approve all NDA's would slow down the process of negotiating agreements.

Mr. Jenkins indicated that if the online voting system were used more, it should not be too much of a problem.

Mr. Collins supported Mr. Jenkins move, and also indicated his wish for a more "streamlined" decision making process, and suggested that governors who were on vacation should make more use of proxies.

Mr. Bevington noted that if legal documents were supplied to governors in advance of the vote, it would allow them more time to carefully scrutinize the agreements.

Mr. Kalamaras asked if it were possible to change the way voting was done so that once a majority was obviously reached, that the vote could be considered "closed" rather than waiting for all members to finish voting.

Mr. Clark submitted a motion that when using online voting, the vote be considered "closed" once a majority had been achieved.

Mr. Zazula suggested that instead the motion should state that the deadline on electronic votes be changed to 48 hours.

Mr. Clark withdrew his motion and submitted an alternative motion that the deadline on electronic votes be shortened to 48 hours.

Mr. Kalamaras seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

George Marinakis	(GSM)	no
Lefteris Kalamaras	(LK)	yes
Mike Bevington	(MB)	yes
Mike Zazula	(MZ)	yes
Richard Jenkins	(RJ)	no
Robert Phillips (proxy)		yes
Roland Collins	(RC)	no
Tom Schroeder		no
Jeff Clark	(JC)	no

With 4 votes in favour, and 5 votes against, the motion failed.

Mr. Jenkins suggested to Mr. Zazula that his suggestion to change the timeframe of online votes be carried onto the mailing list should he wish to pursue it further.

VI. Contracts

Mr. Jenkins made a motion that Mr. Marinakis be empowered to archive all licensing, NDA and legal agreements that VATSIM enters into and maintain them in his law offices in Cincinnati.

The motion was seconded by Tom Schroeder.

Mr. Kalamaras asked if this could be extended to any other kinds of documents that may be required such as original source codes? He indicated that he believed Mr. Marinakis should be empowered to keep these documents.

Mr. Marinakis indicated that what this meant was that anything entrusted to him would be held onto by himself at his legal offices, and that he would not be able to release it unless specifically directed to by a vote of the BOG.

Mr. Kalamaras indicated that this was essentially like asking Mr. Marinakis to act as our "bank vault".

Mr. Jenkins amended his motion to direct Mr. Marinakis to archive all legal agreements, media owned by VATSIM, source and executable codes entrusted to VATSIM by it's respective developers, and maintain them in his law offices in Cincinnati.

Mr. Zazula asked whether Mr. Marinakis would be doing this job as V.P. of Conflict Resolution, or in his role as VATSIM's legal counsel.

Mr. Jenkins indicated that in this position, Mr. Marinakis would be wearing his "legal" hat.

Mr. Kalamaras indicated that the motion should then be amended to reflect this.

Mr. Jenkins amended his motion to read that the BOG "directs VATSIM legal counsel to archive all legal agreements, media owned by VATSIM, source and executable codes entrusted to VATSIM by it's respective developers, and maintain them in a secure place.

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Jeff Clark	(JC)	For
George Marinakis	(GSM)	Abstain
Lefteris Kalamaras	(LK)	For
Mike Bevington	(MB)	For
Mike Zazula	(MZ)	For
Richard Jenkins	(RJ)	For
Robert Phillips (proxy)		For
Roland Collins	(RC)	For
Tom Schroeder		For

With 8 votes in favour and one abstention, the motion was carried.

VII. VATSIM Website

Mr. Jenkins removed this item from the agenda, for lack of time.

VIII.   OBS Callsigns

Mr. Zazula noted that some users were logging in with unusual callsigns, such as ones that ended with ".x" and ".1". He noted that the relevant paragraph of the COR which discusses proper callsigns only states that users "should" use a callsign ending with OBS, and not that they "shall" do so. He indicated that he had consulted with Mr. Marinakis who agreed that the wording of the COR did not compel use of the OBS callsign in these cases.

Mr Clark enquired if this was a major problem on the network, as he had not seen it happening, as amending the COR would require a fair amount of work.

Mr. Zazula indicated that the problem was not currently widespread.

Mr. Collins noted that in his opinion there were two separate issues – the first being the failure to use the OBS suffix, and the second was inappropriate prefixes. He suggested that changes in the FSD code may be a better way to enforce compliance with the intent of this regulation.

Mr. Kalamaras indicated that as Richard Critz was the FSD developer, he would need to obtain his opinion of this move before discussing this further.

Mr. Marinakis indicated that he believed the ideal solution for this would be technical, and noted that as things stand, this rule is not enforceable.

Mr. Collins asked if there really was such a thing as a position that would need to log onto the network for the purposes of observing and NOT use the OBS suffix.

Mr. Zazula indicated he was happy to forget amending the COR and instead pursue a technical solution.

Mr. Jenkins indicated that he also believed that this could not go any further without consultation with Mr. Critz.

Mr. Collins agreed that a technical solution is the best approach.

Mr. Kalamaras suggested that Mr. Critz would see this mentioned in the minutes, and may not need to be directly questioned on this issue.

Mr. Clark suggested that it may be better to directly ask if this is possible, in case these minutes, or the mailing list discussions were not read by Mr. Critz.

Mr. Kalamaras indicated that he would forward any relevant discussions to Mr. Critz.

Mr. Collins indicated that he didn't believe this was an urgent matter, and agreed that this should be moved to the mailing list.

IX. Supervisors

Mr. Zazula indicated he was still working with RD's to discuss issues with supervisors. He noted that VATNA was still underrepresented with regards to the number of supervisors per member, and he considered that at least another 10 supervisors were needed for this region. VATSA was also badly in need of supervisors.

Old Business

Mr. Collins indicated that the EC was not happy with the BOG's response to a number of previously-submitted action items, and will shortly re-submit requests for several items.

Mr. Jenkins addressed the specific request by the EC for a welcoming email to be sent to users on a "country-specific" basis. He indicated that prior to the resignation of Mr. Critz as VP Development, he had indicated that it may be possible to change the CERT server to direct users to a country-specific URL, where material relevant to individual countries could be stored.

Mr. Collins indicated that the original request by the EC, to have a different email sent out, would in his opinion have required too much maintenance, and this approach would be better.

Mr. Kalamaras left the meeting at this point (2145Z) and left his proxy with Mr. Marinakis.

Mr. Jenkins indicated that he believed that this was a good idea, and asked Mr. Collins to inform the EC that this was how we believed this should be approached.

Mr. Jenkins also directed Mr. Collins to notify the EC that the transfer notification process would be investigated as well, where both the RDs for receiving and transferring region would both receive notification emails.

Mr. Jenkins asked Mr. Collins for a briefing on Worldflight 2005, indicating that he wanted Terry to get as much support as possible on this.

Mr. Marinakis indicated a desire to publicly thank Terry for actually following the COR in approaching the BOG and getting permission for this event, as the COR required. Mr. Marinakis also expressed his best wishes to the organizers in their endeavors.

Mr. Collins indicated that he had an announcement ready for publishing on the main VATSIM home page.

Mr. Jenkins said that Terry should ask if he needed anything else.

New Business

Mr. Collins noted that David Liberman has resigned as RD for VATCAM.

Mr. Jenkins asked that Mr. Collins convey the thanks of the BOG for Mr. Liberman's efforts.

Mr. Jenkins indicated that the recently vacated post of VP-Communications would shortly be up for a vote, via e-mail, of the Governors.

At this time, Mr. Jenkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark, who also recommended that the BOG set the date/time for the next meeting as January 14th, 2006, at 1800Z, which was agreed by the other members of the BOG.

The BOG then adjourned via unanimous vote at 2207Z.

Appendix 1: Record of votes, and significant discussions held between the April 3, 2005 meeting and the October 22, 2005 meetings of the Board of Governors.

The following votes, and significant actions were taken by the Board of Governors between the quarterly meeting of April 3rd, 2005 and October 22nd, 2005:

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A vote was conducted to approve the meeting minutes of the April 3rd meeting, as submitted to the BOG by Jeff Clark.

The vote was as follows:

Harv Stein	Abstain
Richard Critz	Against
Michael Bevington	For
Mike Hayden	For
Robert Phillips	For
Michael Zazula	For
Jeff Clark	For
George Marinakis	For
Roland Collins	For
Roberto Bazzano	For
Tom Schroeder	For
Ed Hemsley	Abstain

With 9 votes for, 1 vote against, and two abstentions, the meeting minutes were approved.

New Supervisors

Michael Zazula presented the BOG with a list of new supervisor candidates for approval. The list was approved by a unanimous vote of the BOG.

EC Access to Cert

Richard Jenkins made a motion that the Executive Committee be allowed limited access to the NOTAM section of the CERT console. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote of the BOG.

Amendment to Special Operations Document

Robert Phillips proposed amendments to the Special Operations Document which had been previously circulate to the BOG via e-mail. The vote was as follows:

Michael Bevington:	For
Robert Phillips:	For
Roland Collins:	For
Tom Schroeder:	For
Ed Hemsley:	For

Mike Hayden:	For
Richard Jenkins:	For
Michael Zazula:	For
George Marinakis:	For
Richard Critz:	Abstain

III.   VATSIM International Convention

The BOG selected Washington D.C. as the location of the annual VATSIM convention. Voting for the convention city was as follows:

Mike Bevington:	KIAD
Mike Hayden:	KIAD
Jeff Clark:	KIAD
George Marinakis:	KIAD
Richard Critz:	KIAD
Roberto Bazzano:	KIAD
Rob Phillips:	KIAD
Harv Stein:	KIAD
Tom Schroeder:	KATL
Ed Hemsley:	KIAD
Mike Zazula:	KIAD
Rich Jenkins:	Abstain
Roland Collins:	KIAD

With 11 votes for Washington, 1 vote for Atlanta, and one abstention, Washington D.C. was selected as the location for the International Convention.

Rich Jenkins indicated that he wished for planning of the 2006 convention to get underway after two vacant RD's were replaced.

IV.   Visiting Controller Policy

Jeff Clark noted that some USA ARTCC's appeared to be in violation of the spirit of the BOG's policy on Visiting Controllers. Roland Collins agreed to work with RD's to address the issue.

V.   VATSA Regional Director

With the resignation of the previous RD of VATSA, Paulo Ungar, the BOG voted on a replacement. Jesus Betancourt was elected to this position by majority vote.

VATSIM President

On June 16th, Harv Stein notified the BOG that he would be stepping down as President of VATSIM, effective July 27th.

Nominations were opened for a new president by Tom Schroeder on June 28th.

Subsequently, Richard Jenkins was elected President of the Board of Governors.

VI.   VATNA Regional Director

With the vacancy of the VATNA position, a vote was conducted to find a replacement for outgoing director Chris McCarthy.

Todd Cox was elected to this position by a majority vote of the Board of Governors.

VII.   Northwest Airlines Cease and Desist Letter

George Marinakis advised that VATSIM had received a "cease and desist" letter demanding the VATSIM remove all unauthorized copyrighted images from VATSIM systems. The BOG requested that all affiliated VA's take steps to remove such images from their own websites. Mr. Marinakis advised that after consultation with Northwest's attorneys, they were satisfied that VATSIM had complied with their request.

VIII.   Resignation of VP – Development

Richard Critz, VATSIM VP – Development submitted his resignation from this position on October 3rd. On October 5th, Richard Jenkins appointed Lefteris Kalamaras, VATSIM Founder, as Interim Director for Development until the position could be filled.