



# **QUARTER 3 2021 BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING MINUTES**

## **WARNING**

Information contained in this document is  
intended for flight simulation purposes only.

## Control Pages

### *Document Identification*

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### *Related Documents*

Document Name	Document Identification

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# 1 Opening and Roll Call

The meeting was opened at 2000 UTC on 16 October 2021 by Tim Barber.

## 1.01 *In Attendance*

Tim Barber – President  
Simon Irvine – Vice President, Europe, Middle East, Africa Region  
Anastasios Stefopoulos – Vice President, Asia / Pacific Region  
Federico Navarro – Vice President, Americas Region  
Matt Cianfarani – Vice President, Network Infrastructure  
Matt Bozwood – Davies – Vice President, Technical Development  
Don Desfosse – Vice President, Membership  
Roger Curtiss – Vice President, Virtual Airlines and Special Operations  
Simon Kelsey – Vice President, Pilot Training  
Matt Bartels – Vice President, Marketing and Communications  
Gunnar Lindahl – BoG Member at Large

## 1.02 *Regrets*

Nicola Felini – Vice President, Conflict Resolution  
Nick Cavacini – Vice President, Supervisors

## 1.03 *Housekeeping Items*

The meeting agenda, minutes of the Quarter 2 2021 Board of Governors meeting, and recap of adhoc votes since the last meeting were submitted and approved by the Board of Governors.

## 1.04 *Membership Level Report*

Don Desfosse presented the membership report showing that sign up and active members are still trending higher than 2019 however there is a marked slowdown from the peak numbers that occurred in 2020.

### 1.05 *President Report on FlightSim Expo*

Tim Barber presented to the BoG a recap of his trip to FlightSim Expo in September of 2021. He stated that it was a great trip and enjoyed meeting with the VATSIM members in attendance. He also enjoyed promoting VATSIM to the general Flight Simulation community and making connections with third party developers.

## 2 **Old Business**

### 2.01 *Iron Mic 2022*

Discussion was had about relaunching the Iron Mic Competition. The plan is to relaunch Iron Mic within Quarter 1 2022 after some blind tests are done with the tracking software. Roger Curtiss requested an update on potentially changing the name of the competition. The BoG likes the name Iron Mic.

Roger also inquired about implementing rules for the minimum traffic a facility would need to see for consideration for an Iron Mic to prevent Iron Mic Runs at facilities which would see no traffic nor normally be staffed outside of an Iron Mic run. The BoG decided that all towered airports, approaches, and enroute sectors should remain eligible as Iron Mic runs spotlight those facilities and draw traffic.

### 2.02 *VATSIM Forums Update*

A new license was procured for the VATSIM forums. It is a limited licence with a six-month renewal. We opted for the lower cost option as we did not use all the features that our previous license allowed.

### 2.03 *Pilot Accountability Project*

Pilot Training is ready to go on Phase I of the Pilot Accountability Program. Phase I is aggregate data gathering on pilot deviations which will be used to focus our training and media resources to improve pilot quality. The end goal of the Pilot Accountability Program is to allow feedback to be given directly to pilots, like controller feedback today. Some of this feedback may point pilots to training resources to review prior to their next connection to VATSIM.

## 2.04 *Discrete Unicom Frequencies Project*

There has been no change to the Discrete Unicom Frequencies Project since the last update. Tim feels that the current system of 122.800 is good for now but we should look at how to implement discrete unicom frequencies in due course as it will be a good step forward for the network.

## 2.05 *Update to VATSIM Code of Regulations and User Agreement*

An update to VATSIM's Code of Regulations and User Agreement has been sent to the Founders for final approval.

## 2.06 *Preferred Names Update*

There is a new API in development where a user registers with their real name but may select their preferred name or CID they will use for all network operations. This is the information that will be sent to divisions who have a need to process it, such as for ATC Rosters. For Example: John Doe 123456 may select John Doe 123456, John 123456, or 123456. The user may change this preference at any time.

Some on the BoG expressed concerns with this continued push towards anonymity and the ability for increased trolling.

## 2.07 *Future Town Hall*

Marketing and Communications is ready for a BoG Town Hall Meeting. The BoG needs to set a final date and agenda. Nick Watkins from VATUSA was brought onboard the Marketing and Communications team to help with the production of the town hall.

## 2.08 *CONOPs for GDPR Requests*

Don Desfosse requested the meeting move into executive session for this topic. It was seconded by Matt Cianfarani. Executive session was exited upon completion of discussions on this topic.

## 2.09 *Global Controller Administration Policy Update*

Matt Bartels provided an update on the Global Controller Administration Policy. The Policy was on Public Revision 2. Comments and debate were had within the public discussion and the review period was closed while changes are made to the document.

Many on the BoG agree with the intent that the GCAP proposed. Gunnar Lindahl feels that prior to the next revision a note from the whole Board of Governors should accompany the revision explaining why the BoG feels certain things must be done.

Tim Barber suggested that we continue with the GCAP project but make it less of a priority and revisit it potentially in Quarter 2 2022.

## 3 **New Business**

### 3.01 *Vice President - Operations Recruitment*

The vacancy for Vice President – Operations created by Tim Barber’s election to President was opened to all network members.

### 3.02 *Worldflight 2021 Code of Conduct / Global Ratings Policy Exemptions*

Worldflight has been provided exemptions to VATSIM’s Code of Conduct and Global Ratings Policy for many years, however as these exemptions were not codified, it resulted in confusion and differences handling when issues arose. Matt Bartels wanted to codify the exemptions we give to Worldflight so there is no more confusion.

The following motion was proposed by Matt Bartels, Seconded by Anastasios Stefopoulos, and approved by the Board of Governors

- A. Official fixed base team participants of the 2021 Worldflight event be exempted from compliance with Section A3 of the VATSIM Code of Conduct during the event.
- B. Where local ATC is unavailable, the World Flight ATC team shall be authorized to staff ATC positions along the route of the event. Controllers may not staff positions above their assigned rating.
- C. In the event that local ATC becomes available while a position is staffed by World Flight ATC, but due to traffic levels an effective handoff cannot be completed, the World Flight ATC may continue to control until such time as traffic levels allow for handoff to local ATC.
- D. In the Event local ATC is unable to provide effective services, a member of the VATSIM Board of Governors may authorize World Flight ATC to temporarily take over the position until such time as traffic levels allow return to local ATC.



### 3.03 *Tech Department Workload*

Discussions were had about the limited amount of tech staff and how to better utilize developer resources. There is a desire to bring on project managers to help balance and distribute workload. Tim Barber asked all Vice Presidents with technology needs to prioritize what must be done so that our tech resources can be efficiently used. Gunnar acknowledged that there are priorities for other departments but impressed upon the team the need for a new website.

### 3.04 *Meeting Schedule*

Tim Barber sought input from the BoG about holding additional informal meetings outside of quarterly meetings to catch up on items. He also suggested that the quarterly meeting time be changed from 2000z to 1600z. Most of the BoG had no objections to the time change.

### 3.05 *Hall of Fame and Awards Program*

Roger Curtiss proposed two new member recognition programs. The first is a Hall of Fame which would be to honor members who have made significant contributions to VATSIM over the years. The second is to have individual awards, yearly or other to recognize excellent air traffic facilities, individual pilots, etc.

The Board of Governors liked the idea and encouraged him to pursue and develop a proposal.

### 3.06 *Structure and Policy*

Topic was deferred to the next meeting due to Nicola Felini's absence.

### 3.07 *External Network Relations*

Matt Bartels discussed some of the requests and decision-making regarding partnerships and advertising VATSIM has done over the past year. Examples of supporting the rollout of Flight Simulation Association, participation in FlightSim Expo, Navigraph Survey and requesting staffing for Orbx Fly July events, show that we are a good neighbour in the general flight simulation community, and that pays dividends in these companies helping and supporting VATSIM when we need it.

## 4 Departmental Updates

- 4.01 *Departmental Update Reports can be provided on request from the appropriate Vice President.*

## 5 Other Business

- 5.01 *Cross the Pond Support*

Tim Barber formally requested the BoG support Cross the Pond by signing on as a supervisor to help.

- 5.02 *Amendment of the Code of Regulations*

A motion to amend VATSIM's Code of Regulations was proposed :

To amend Section 6.06 B.2. of the VATSIM Code of Regulations to read as follows: "*S6.06 Temporary Suspension of a Member, B Notification Requirements, Part 2 - Vice President of Conflict Resolution: Upon receipt of notice of the temporary suspension of a member, the Vice President of Conflict Resolution on the VATSIM.net Board of Governors or his or her designate shall within twenty four (24) hours notify the suspended member of the temporary suspension and shall forward the matter a Divisional Conflict Resolution Manager. This notice shall include at a minimum, the name and certificate number of the temporarily suspended member, the name and rating of the individual who temporarily suspended the member, the date, time and location of the alleged violation and any general statement submitted.*"

Matt Bartels suggested that this vote not occur during the meeting and instead be conducted via Terminal Vote to ensure that each Vice President record their own vote, without a proxy, as well as to record the 2/3's majority required to amend the Code of Regulations. It was agreed to conduct the vote in Terminal.

### *5.03 Virtual Airline / Special Operations Event Posting and Promotion*

Roger Curtiss requested that Partner Virtual Airlines and Special Operations groups be able to post their events to myVATSIM which results in their events being advertised by VATSIM's official feeds. He felt that it was good for the network and gave incentives to organizations to pursue VATSIM partnership. Matt Bartels expressed concerns that allowing partner VAs and VSOAs to post and have events promoted by the network is advertising a private groups event that may not be open for the general membership and do not have a guarantee of ATC. This is opposed to ATC-sponsored events which are currently the only events published which are open to all and have a guarantee of ATC. It was decided that since anyone can fly anywhere that promoting Virtual Airline events would be allowed, but VSOA events would not as VSOA events involve operations that cannot be conducted by a general VATSIM member.

### *5.04 Designation of New Flight Service Stations*

Federico Navarro requested clarification on how new Flight Service Stations will be approved under the current governance rules without the Executive Committee. Tim Barber stated that a Board of Governors vote either in a quarterly meeting or a terminal vote would suffice.

## **6 Meeting Closure**

The meeting was closed by Tim Barber at 2253z.