

**Meeting opened: ???am ACDT**

Attendance: Wes Garrett (Secretary) – Chair, Rory Thomas McCabe (President), Zack Van Loenhout (NT), Jesse Page (SA), Chris Putnam (NSW), Dan Thompson (WHS Coordinator), Chris Jones (WA).

Apologies: Ben Chugg (Tas), Mick McDonald (ACT), Pat Shanahan (South Qld), Justin Harpley (North Qld), Glenn Laurie (Vic)

Acknowledgement to Country:

"We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognize their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture".

Minutes of Previous Meeting

"That the Minutes of the previous BCOM meetings held on 8th December 2023 be received".

Moved: Secretary

Seconded: BCOM NT

Carried: Unanimously

Correspondence

Correspondence was provided in the branch google drive.

Accounts for Payment

Accounts for payment were provided in the google drive and ratified by BCOM.

ARFFS EA 2024 – The Secretary contacted and discussed the status of bargaining with Civil Air Secretary Peter McGuane. UFUA and Civil Air have been at the negotiating table for approximately the same time. Both agree that bargaining progress thus far could be described as "slow". Airservices have yet to provide in-principle agreement on any claims made by either Union. The Secretary will also schedule a meeting with Civil air to discuss a mutual approach to a senior Government contact concerning Airservices and CASA governance and regulatory compliance. Airservices preference was to skip scheduling a bargaining meeting for week beginning 22/1/24, UFUA requested and was successful in having an online meeting scheduled for Wed

24/1/2024 and a face to face the following week on Monday 29/1/24. Time is of the essence as the NED draws ever closer.

EVT's – UFUA Membership Proposal - Will schedule a meeting in the coming weeks with Lance Biffen and the President to discuss pros and cons prior to reporting back to BCOM.

Aviation Branch 50 yr Anniversary T's – BCOM discussed the idea of placing an order and distributing free T-shirts to all financial members. The proposal was met with mixed reactions due to the high cost involved. However, proponents argued that the visibility and symbolism of the T-shirts could bring additional benefits as well as the potential of PIA if EA negotiations break down. Ultimately, BCOM decided to put the idea to a vote in the form of a motion.

Motion: That the BCOM agrees to order 50 yr anniversary T shirts for all financial members this is to acknowledge our 50 yr anniversary and additionally the potential for PIA (potentially two birds with one stone).

Moved: Secretary

Seconded: President

Carried: Unanimously

Membership Application – James Caldaro SYD (Direct Entry ex FRV & UFU VIC Branch). *“Living in Qld and working in Sydney. For a course in Sydney that's out of work hours Monday - Friday day work. Would I be entitled to flights and accommodation?”* BCOM's thoughts? As a general practice doesn't this scenario doesn't happen. BCOM determined after discussion to send general enquiry to ASA to fish out their position. BCOM's position is that it should be treated as ED with T/A entitlements.

Motion:

That the BCOM accept the membership application of James Caldaro.

Moved: WHS Coord

Seconded: BCOM NSW

Carried: Unanimous

CASA Meeting – BCOM agree to apply pressure to Brad Parker (CASA) as a result of him stonewalling attempts by the UFUA to schedule face to face meetings with relevant CASA staff.

Revalidation of TRA – Desirable to have additional BCOM participant? Will meet with a/CFO Woodman in shortly. Trevor Rogers keen to remain involved. Awaiting scheduling of meeting with Sam Woodman. BCOM priority for 2024.

Recrediting of Secretary's Rec Leave – BCOM discussed recrediting the Secretary's recreation leave (3 weeks) taken over the Christmas shutdown period, in recognition of performance/workload over the previous 12 months. The proposal was positively received by BCOM. As a result, the following motion was moved.

Motion:

That the BCOM agrees to reimburse the Secretary's recreation leave taken over the Christmas shut down period.

Moved: BCOM NT

Seconded: President

Carried: Unanimous

Legal Advice move NIFS onto Award? – BCOM agreed to ask for legal opinion re: terminating the current NIRC EA and moving members to the Firefighting Award, in order to maximise wage increases if Government funding for mainland pay parity cannot be achieved. BCOM determined to provide required resources and seek legal advice.

RC #99 Non-Financial Members – The following recruits have not responded to several requests for banking details. Relevant BCOM and delegates to follow up recruitment. We require them to complete our Direct Debit Form.

Mitchell Cutcliffe	Alice Springs
Rhys Siganto	Townsville
Scott Hannaford	Darwin
Nathan Muskee	Townsville
Jeremy Lewfatt	Darwin
Jared Brentnall	Melbourne
Chad Fallins	Whitsundays Coast
Akira John Fujii	Townsville
Ashley McNaughton	Melbourne
Sara Drain?	Hamilton Island

Transition From ZOOM to Google Meet – We currently pay for 3 online meeting programs. Microsoft and Google provide the functionality in our existing subscriptions. Zoom only costs \$300/year but we don't really need it. Google Meet has built in transcription. BCOM agrees to trial Google meet prior to transitioning our Delegates meeting over to the same platform.

AvSuper Successor Fund Transfer to ART – Australian Retirement Trust have sought assurances from Airservices and the Unions that objections to the transfer would not be raised. Airservices seeks written confirmation of the UFUA's in-principal agreement.

Mick Farrell former Aviation Branch Secretary represents the UFUA on the board of AvSuper. It was on his recommendation that ART seek UFUA support. Mick is satisfied that all elements of the merger and the due diligence applied are of the highest standard. Particular attention was paid to ART's insurance coverage (ART uses the same insurer as AvSuper) and their defined benefit arrangements. ART is an industry super fund with total Assets of \$264.4 billion and 2,334,304 members. By comparison AvSuper has 6,600 members and \$2.1 billion in assets. BCOM discussed at length the pros and cons of providing in-principal agreement. Ultimately BCOM determined that the merger with ART was inevitable and that consistent with current legislation members can continue to invest their super with whomever they choose, on the question of

whom to invest with, advice should be sought from an independent financial advisor, AvSuper or ART.

Motion:

That the BCOM provide written in-principal agreement for Airservices to amend the EA in recognition that AvSuper will shortly cease to exist, and Airservices Australia's default fund will transition to the Australian Retirement Trust (ART).

Moved: BCOM NSW

Seconded: President

Carried: Unanimous

Meeting closed at: 12:15 ACDT



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Rory T McCabe
PRESIDENT

