

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING 4/2025 - Thursday 13 November 2025

The minutes of meeting 4/2025 of the Melbourne University Sport (MU Sport) Advisory Board held at 6pm on Thursday 13 November 2025, in Social Space A, Nona Lee Sports Centre.

PRESENT:

Mr Ian Marshman (Chair)
Ms Rosemary Bissett
Ms Kitty Chiller
Mr Jesse Gardner-Russell
Mr James Hardiman
Ms Stephanie Spence

APOLOGIES:

Dr Catherine Burnheim
Ms Jess Vinnicombe

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Jo Massoud (Secretary)
Ms Toni Sutherland (Minute taker)
Mr Rod Warnecke

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgment of Country and then welcomed everyone present, including Melbourne University (MU) Sport Transition Lead Mr James Armit, Student and Scholarly Services (SASS) Executive Director Ms Jo Ligouris and President of the MU Rugby Football Club Mr Adrian Garvey.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were noted.

1.3 Club Presentation – MU Rugby Football Club

Mr Warnecke, introduced Mr Garvey who has just been re-elected as Club President for the 6th year. Mr Garvey provided some history of the club which has been fielding rugby teams for over 100 years and currently has a membership of 115 registered players, of whom 10-20% are currently students. He provided details on the club's current teams, and expanded on the opportunities for increasing participation, namely via their women's programs, rugby 7s (which need only 11 athletes per team), U85kgs division (who recently made their Grand Final) and potentially a tag program/tournament with the colleges in 2026.

The Chair thanked Mr Garvey for his presentation.

Mr Garvey and Mr Warnecke left the meeting at 6.25pm.

1.4 Minutes from the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (No 3/2025) held on Thursday 21 August 2025 were confirmed via circular resolution.

1.5 Business Arising/Action Item Updates

1.5.1 Transition Program – Partnership and Engagement Opportunities (3/2025 2.1)

The Chair noted that the Advisory Board had not been provided with the notes from the August workshop. Mr Armit will forward those notes to the members of the Advisory Board.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

2.1 Transition Program Update

Ms Ligouris, who now reports to DVC Education, noted that MU Sport has formally transitioned to SASS. It was noted that the SASS governance team is considering what the recent transition changes mean for the MU Sport Advisory Board and Ms Ligouris will communicate updates to the Advisory Board Chair. The Chair thanked Ms Ligouris for her presence at the meeting.

Mr Armit then provided the Advisory Board with an update on against the Governance and Operating Model Review panel's ten recommendations now that the transition to SASS is complete.

In addition to outlining the current progress, actions and deliverables against each recommendation, Mr Armit also discussed the refresh of the Strategic Plan for Sport with a focus on alignment with the broader University strategy and creating tangible objectives for 2026.

Discussions with Advisory Board members then covered related topics such as potential impacts of any MU Sport brand changes to affiliate clubs, transitional and future management team and organisational structures, future non-student user surveys, Clubs' volunteer compliance training, future SSAF funding, the recent work of the Service Improvement team and the pathway for future facilities upgrades.

Actions

Communicate Transition update, funding arrangements and Strategic Plan for Sport Refresh with Clubs.

3. MATTERS FOR NOTING

3.1 Advisory Board Update

Ms Jo Massoud, General Manager, provided the Advisory Board with an update on significant items, noting the absence of the usual financial reports, which have been limited due to Workday implementation.

Despite the Sports Precinct Refurbishment not commencing in early 2026 as planned, the preparation and completion of the tender package will continue, ready for procurement when funding is confirmed. The rectification of the Nona Lee Sport Centre East Stadium is now completed, with all activities resuming in the space.

Preparations are underway for the Blues and Sports Awards, next Friday evening, as well as the Sport and Volunteer Celebration on 3 December. Board members are encouraged to attend both events so we can recognise their contributions to the University and sport.

The General Manager concluded the update.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the Update.

4. MEETING FINALISATION

4.1 Meeting Close

The General Manager thanked the board members and presented them with a gift in appreciation of their dedication and support during the year.

The Chair thanked the General Manager and staff for their hard work and commitment to sport at the University despite a challenging year and concluded the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

4.2 Next Meeting

No further meetings are currently scheduled.

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:

.....
Chair Mr Ian Marshman

.....
Date

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD

ACTION SHEET 4/2025 – 13 November 2025

Minute no.	Item Title	Actions	Person/s Responsible
3/2025 2.1	Transition Program – Partnership and Engagement Opportunities	That the Advisory Board is provided with the notes from the group workshop	Mr James Armit
4/2025 2.1	Transition Program – Update	Communicate Transition update, funding arrangements and Strategic Plan for Sport Refresh with Clubs	Mr James Armit