

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT BOARD
MEETING 2/2020 – 25 June 2020

The minutes of meeting 2/2020 of the Melbourne University Sport Board held on Thursday 25 June at 9:30am via Zoom.

PRESENT:

Professor James Angus (Chair)
Professor Kerri-Lee Krause
Ms Lara McKay
Mr James Marburg
Mr Shawn Ingle
Ms Anna Traill

APOLOGIES:

Professor Richard James
Professor Sarah Biddulph
Ms Alex Lawlor
Ms Joanna Weston

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Tim Lee (Director)
Mr Jean-Luc Garlick
Ms Julie Caundle
Mr Eugene Toh (minute taker)
Mr James Kavourakis for item 1.4
Mr Rod Warnecke for item 1.4
Ms Bridgid Junot
Mr Alex Affleck

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present.

1.2 Apologies

Professor Sarah Biddulph, Professor Richard James, Ms Alex Lawlor and Ms Joanna Weston were listed as apologies.

1.3 Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interests declared.

1.4 Club Presentation – Squash Club

The Chair welcomed Mr James Kavourakis, President of the Squash Club. Mr Kavourakis introduced the club's guiding philosophies which recognised its strong membership base of beginner and social players. A goal of the club is to develop these players and encourage them to participate in higher level competition including intervarsity sport. Since realigning their strategy in this manner membership numbers have significantly increased and have

enabled Squash to reinvest their revenue back into the club to drive activities and expand participation.

Challenges facing the membership base included the club's limited exposure to students and the general court availability required to service their existing members. Recruiting elite juniors is also a challenge as many of these players have already signed up to private clubs prior to entering university. Opportunities for growth are focused around increasing the base of beginner membership and creating additional pathways to enable these players to compete in higher level competition.

Professor Krause congratulated the Club for their significant increase in female participation and asked whether the Club was focusing on non-student member participation. This is not a central focus of the club however the variance over the past five years in non-students can be attributed to external factors. Ms Traill asked what strategy was used to engage more women in squash. The club embraced an internal cultural change and enabled social activities to become a more prominent fixture of their calendar. This has appealed broadly to members however has had a noticeable positive effect on female membership levels.

The Chair thanked Mr Kavourakis for his presentation.

1.5 Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

1.6 Confirmation of Circular Resolutions

There were no circular resolutions to confirm.

1.7 Business Arising/Action Item Updates

There were no business arising/action item updates.

2. MATTERS FOR DECISION

There were no matters for decision

3. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 Return to Campus Update

The Director welcomed all present and provided a brief overview of the recent reopening of the pool and gym. This began the process of pivoting from providing remote services to a phased return to campus aligned with the University's 'COVIDSafe Return to Campus' framework. Stage one of the return commenced almost a month ago allowing many of the University's outdoor clubs to resume training sessions in a modified form. The next stage would involve the reopening of the Sports Centre along with the already reopened Pool and Beaurepaire Gym.

Modifications to bookings, physical spaces and facilities access had been made to ensure that social distancing requirements were met. However, the recent state government announcements on additional restrictions may have an impact on these modifications in the future. Stage 3 coincides with the University's proposed beginning of semester 2 and will involve the return of all remaining programs and services, likely in some modified form and in a phased manner.

Attendance numbers since reopening the pool and gym have been encouraging considering the current restrictions on bookings. This is supported by the online engagement numbers being tracked by the Marketing team and it has been great seeing so many staff and students back in the Precinct. Interestingly, 67% of those viewing the MU Sport online programs and classes are female and the engagement rates on the website have increased significantly

since the announcement of Sport's reopening. This provides the organisation with great confidence that community members will reengage as the other facilities, programs and services slowly restart.

The Director provided a financial overview of the organization since the University's pivot to providing remote services. An updated financial forecast would be provided at the next meeting.

Resolution

The Board noted the Return to Campus Update.

Action

To provide an updated financial forecast at the next Board meeting.

3.2 Respect in Sport

Ms Junot provided an overview leading up to the organisation's work in the *Respect* space. The Clubs Governance Review was undertaken in 2013 where concerns were raised regarding the safety of participants in clubs and intervarsity events as well as the training of club volunteers. In 2017, the Human Rights Commission published the *Change the Course* report which identified University Sporting events as a possible event which could lead to sexual assault and harassment.

MU Sport has since undertaken a series of actions in alignment with the *Respect Taskforce*. A 4-P approach is used to establish a safe and inclusive environment within the organization which refer to Policies, Programs, Promotion and Partnerships. Along with the introduction of several equity and inclusion policies, Sport has developed a series of procedures students must abide by when participating in intervarsity sport. A zero-tolerance approach has been adopted where students deviate from the agreed code of conduct. New members are inducted on the expectations of respectful and inclusive behaviour and the Marketing team works diligently to ensure equal representations in the organisation's media publications.

The next steps for the program involve two major projects. The first is a Trips Register which will ensure that the University is aware of the whereabouts of student members on club trips and will trigger the development of appropriate training and management for club leaders. The next is the development of a Sport Leaders Program and Award. The College Sport Leadership Workshop served as a pilot program which could be expanded to the University's varsity and representative athletes. This could be supported through the development of face to face and e-learning modules as well as the introduction of a student ambassador program. The goal of these initiatives would be to increase student participant's skills and confidence in creating a safe and respectful sporting environment. Many students have already stepped up including two who have led their own 'Run for Equality' campaign which seeks to raise awareness on issues of domestic violence during the pandemic period.

Professor Krause noted that this is a critical area which requires a significant cultural shift and continues to be a central focus of the University. The Director recognized that the University had historically been a safe place for vulnerable members of the community including members of the LGBTIQIA+ community and that Sport should continue to recognize and celebrate these individuals. The Chair thanked Ms Junot for her presentation.

Resolution

The Board noted the Respect in Sport project.

3.3 Providing services at all Campuses

Mr Affleck provided an overview of the work leading to the Sport at Smaller Metropolitan and Regional Campuses project. In 2016 a student survey was undertaken by the Students and Equity portfolio which found students at non-Parkville campuses had a lower level of satisfaction than their Parkville-counterparts. In response, MU Sport introduced the Active Campus Program and in 2018 students from various regional campuses were surveyed to measure its impact. Findings indicated a significant increase in satisfaction levels of the cohorts surveyed. The work undertaken also provided an opportunity to build collaborative partnerships with the regional campuses and created part-time employment opportunities for students on these campuses.

However, the data also indicated that these campuses suffer significant issues regarding sport participation including a tyranny of distance, low cohort numbers and students having inconsistent access to facilities. The project aims to develop a baseline level of support for all campuses acknowledging that the cohorts located at smaller metropolitan and regional sites also provide significant SSAF funding. Two key milestones will be to ensure that notice boards feature in prominent locations across the campuses and that the Sport website page can be easily accessed by all students interested in the available programs, services and facilities. The success of the project will be measured through the level of engagement of students on these campuses and will inform future projects and opportunities to embed sport in campus development plans.

The Chair thanked Mr Affleck for his presentation noting the sport available for the clinical programs in Shepparton and asked whether rowing at Nagambie represented another participation opportunity. This is currently being investigated and Sport is working with Boat Club representatives to identify whether this is possible.

Resolution

The Board noted the Sport at Smaller Metropolitan and Regional Campus project.

3. MATTERS FOR NOTING

4.1 Director's Report

The Director presented the Director's Report and advised the Board that the 150th Anniversary of Intervarsity Sport had been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resolution

The Board noted the Director's Report.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked the Director and MU Sport for their work in supporting students through the pandemic.

6. MEETING FINALISATION

6.1 Meeting Close

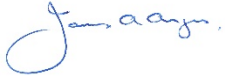
The meeting closed at 11:00am.

6.2 Next Meeting

Next meeting on Thursday 24 September at 9:30am – 11:00am.

Commercial in Confidence
Agenda item no. 1.5

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:



24/9/2020

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Chair Professor James Angus

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Date