

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING 1/2023 – 16 March 2023

The minutes of meeting 1/2023 of the Melbourne University Sport (MU Sport) Advisory Board held on Thursday 16 March at 6:00pm in Social Space A, Nona Lee Sports Centre.

PRESENT:

Mr Ian Marshman (Chair)
Professor Pip Nicholson
Professor Sarah Biddulph (via Zoom)
Ms Rosemary Bissett
Ms Lara McKay
Ms Meezaan Dickinson
Mr Tim Lee (Director)

APOLOGIES:

Ms Joanna Weston
Mr Matt Roseby
Professor Richard James

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Jean-Luc Garlick (Secretary)
Ms Julie Caundle
Ms Jo Massoud
Mr Rod Warnecke
Ms Georgia Fitzpatrick for item 1.3
Mr Jonathan Coulson for item 2.1 (via zoom from the UK)
Mr Dan Baird for item 2.1

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present and commenced with an acknowledgment of country. The Chair thanked Mr Baird for attending the meeting.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were noted.

1.3 Club Presentation – Fencing

The Chair invited Mr Warnecke to introduce Ms Fitzpatrick, the President of the Fencing Club. Ms Fitzpatrick outlined the Club Strategic Plan which is focused on increasing participation and membership post COVID. The immediate issue had been on establishing a communication strategy for increasing and retaining beginner membership. At the conclusion the Chair thanked Ms Fitzpatrick for the presentation and invited questions from the Board.

Discussion then followed about the use of the facilities on campus compared to those at Arden St, the challenges with securing the Arden St facilities and the role of MU Sport in supporting the club with this process.

Ms Fitzpatrick left the meeting at 6.15 pm.

1.4 Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record via circular resolution confirmed on the 19 January.

1.5 Business Arising/Action Item Updates

1.5.1 Strategic Planning Workshop

Circulate the draft Reimagining Sport Vision paper to the Advisory Board once developed – Deferred due to the development of the Business Case.

2. GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATION

Mr Coulson joined the meeting via zoom at 6.15pm

2.1 Capital Planning

The Chair provided the background for the Capital Planning session, the strategic focus for the meeting. Mr Coulson from Turnberry Consulting has been invited to present on the key findings and recommendations from the *Sport Needs Assessment* which was distributed prior to the meeting.

Turnberry Consulting were engaged early last year to develop the Sport Capital Improvement Plan (SCIP) with the objective to improve the quality, capacity and accessibility of sporting facilities that support regular physical activity for students and staff across all campuses of the University. The intention is the SCIP aligns with the Guiding Our Estate, the University capital plan, and the Strategic Plan for Sport.

Discussion followed on the ability of universities to attract/host competitions and tournaments due to sport facilities and the different operational and financial models for sport delivery at universities. There is not one standard or best practise model and the level of funding and support varied depending on how important each institution viewed sport. Professor Nicholson suggested that the University has under invested in sport for some time and that this model was under review but there needed to be a compelling financial model to encourage more investment.

It was agreed that the report needed to start with a stronger executive summary outlining the key issue and recommendations. The Director invited the Board to provide any additional feedback post the meeting. The Chair thanked Mr Coulson for his presentation.

The Director then introduced Mr Baird, the Executive Director of Corporate Development to outline the Estate Planning Framework and Capital Planning Development. In 2019 the University released Guiding Our Estate which serves as the strategic framework for decision making around capital planning at the University. The framework references Sport as one of eleven cross-cutting themes which describe the operational needs of the University. The University has since embarked on a campus wide Estate Master Planning process.

Mr Baird outlined that a business case and financial operating model that demonstrated how an increase in participation in sport could move the dial on student satisfaction, including three-to-five-year objectives, would support the investment in sport capital outlined in *Sport Needs Assessment*.

The recent history of the university not supporting sport capital projects was discussed and the shift from a focus on major projects to a programmatic approach. Philanthropy and external partnerships were considered as possible sources of funds and it was agreed that this required detailed projects that could be presented to potential donors and partners. It was noted that the report should be completed prior to the University's Annual Planning process for considering in the budget for next year.

The Director outlined the resources and support required to complete a business case in the required time including the appointment of a consultant, which would proceed with the support of Mr Baird.

The Chair thanked both Mr Coulson and Mr Baird for their presentations. Mr Coulson and Mr Baird left the meeting at 7:10pm.

Action

To develop the Capital Infrastructure Business Case and Financial Operating Model

3. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 2022 Annual Review Report

The Director presented the 2022 Annual Review Report.

It was noted that the report had been expanded to include a separate report on each operational unit. 2022 was another difficult and challenging year, due to the slower than expected return to campus of students and staff. Despite this over 21,000 students, staff and alumni made over 437,000 visits with participation levels at about 46% of 2019 levels however this climbed to about 60% during the peak of Semester 2.

Some progress was made on the strategic tasks due to the focus on getting students and staff to return to campus, but significant progress was made on the sport capital planning as outlined. The final operating financial position was in line with the budgeted deficit of \$260,155, including Trusts, due to drop in fitness income. Discussion followed about the presentation of the Annual Report highlights and working with the University internal communication team to reach a wider audience.

Despite the many challenges, MU Sport continued to make great progress which was a credit to the staff, clubs, student athletes and volunteers who demonstrated extraordinary commitment and resilience in response to the ever-changing environment. The Director also acknowledged the important role of the Advisory Board.

Action

Distribute the Annual Report to Senior University Management.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the 2022 Annual Review.

3.2 2023 Strategic Update

The Director presented the 2023 Strategic Update and the 2023 Strategic Tasks.

The Director acknowledged the ongoing strategic planning undertaken by the Advisory Board and staff over the past few months focused on identifying key strategic themes. The senior management team reviewed the outcomes of the Strategic Planning Workshop in November and identified four high level strategic tasks and targets for 2023.

Increasing opportunities for students and staff on campus remains our immediate priority with a business unit proposed to deliver programs and services for underrepresented groups and within academic divisions.

The Sport Capital Infrastructure Plan work will continue to focus on improving the quality, capacity and accessibility of sporting facilities, Duty of Care encompasses the club affiliation arrangements and club services to ensure that all sporting programs are safe, respectful and inclusive, and that the conduct of participants (staff, students and community) adhere to the expectations of the University.

The final task is to ensure that long-term sustainability of MU Sport with an operating model and agreements that provide ongoing funding support, secure access to facilities and manage the cost of staffing and systems. The Board were asked to note the strategic tasks.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the 2023 Strategic Update.

4. MATTERS FOR NOTING

4.1 Advisory Board Update

The Director presented the Advisory Board Update.

MU Sport had a successful orientation week due to our presence at a variety of events over six days, including faculty commencement ceremonies and Summerfest. The highlight was Sports Clubs Day which had approximately 5,000 students in attendance. Participation is already up against last year across most programs and services aside from group fitness at 30% of the 2019 numbers. Clubs have not yet provided their membership data, but this would be reported on at the next meeting.

The reception desk and foyer in the Nona Lee Sports Centre had been refurbished with an open plan design to provide a welcoming entry point. The seating around the oval had been upgraded amongst 17 facility improvement projects already completed this year.

The Director noted that this was Professor James' last Advisory Board meeting and thanked him for his contribution since 2012.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the Advisory Board Update.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Professor Biddulph advised that she was organising a program to support later year international students returning to Melbourne for the first time, approximately 6,000 students. As part of the program, they will be including an online page for MU Sport highlighting programs such as Water Safety, and the Student Life Active Pass.

6. MEETING FINALISATION

6.1 Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

6.2 Next Meeting

Next meeting on Thursday 8 June 2023 at 6:00pm

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:



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Chair Mr Ian Marshman

3 August 2023

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Date

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD

ACTION SHEET 1/2023 – 16 March 2023

Minute no.	Item Title	Action	Person/s Responsible
2.1	Sport Capital Infrastructure Plan	To develop a draft Capital Infrastructure Business Case and Financial Operating Model for Sport prior to the next Advisory Board meeting.	Director
3.1	2022 Annual Review Report	Distribute the Annual Report to Senior University Management.	Director