

**MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MEETING 2/2025 - Thursday 22 May 2025**

The minutes of meeting 2/2025 of the Melbourne University Sport (MU Sport) Advisory Board held at 6pm on Thursday 22 May 2025, in Social Space A, Nona Lee Sports Centre.

**PRESENT:**

Mr Ian Marshman (Chair)  
Mr Tim Lee (Director)  
Dr Catherine Burnheim  
Ms Rosemary Bissett  
Ms Kitty Chiller  
Mr Jesse Gardner-Russell  
Mr James Hardiman  
Ms Jess Vinnicombe

**APOLOGIES:**

Ms Stephanie Spence

**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 the Acknowledgment of Country, welcomed everyone present including Dr Catherine Burnheim, in attendance as the proxy for Professor Nicholson whilst she is on a leave of absence, Mr Leo Wu and MU Sport staff.

**1.2 Apologies**

Apologies were noted.

**1.3 Club Presentation – Triathlon Club**

Mr Warnecke introduced Mr Wu, President of the Triathlon Club. Mr Wu presented on the club's 2025 Strategic Plan. Mr Wu was joined by other members of the club committee, Ms Georgia Martin, Mr Richard Tian and Mr Jason Yu. Mr Wu started by acknowledging Mr Tom Mullumby, MU Sport Clubs Coordinator, and Mr Craig Bamford, MU Sport Aquatics and Fitness Coordinator, for their support during the newly formed club's formative semesters. The Triathlon Club's vision is one of inclusivity, diversity, accessibility and affordability. The club has been very successful in running on-campus events and aims to eventually compete at the UniNationals.

The chair thanked Mr Wu for his presentation.

Mr Wu, Ms Martin, Mr Tian and Mr Yu left the meeting at 6.22pm.

**1.4 Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting (No 1/2025) held on Wednesday 19 March 2025 were confirmed.

## **1.5 Business Arising/Action Item Updates**

### **1.5.1 Governance and Operating Model Review (1/2025 1.3)**

The Chair noted that the Advisory Board had been provided with the opportunity to consider the Review's recommendations since the last meeting.

### **1.5.2 2025 Advisory Board Budget (3/2024 2.4)**

The Secretary noted that copies of the budget charts were available at the meeting and would also be emailed to Advisory Board members.

### **1.5.3 Strategic Plan Measures and Targets (4/2024 2.1)**

Listed for discussion under Agenda Item 3.1.

## **2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **2.1 Governance and Operating Model Review**

The Chair advised the Board that this item would be moved to the end of the meeting so that it could be conducted In-Camera.

## **3. MATTERS FOR NOTING**

### **3.1 Advisory Board Update**

The Director presented on a range of items related to the Update provided in the Board papers.

The participation data to the end of April continues to trend upwards despite the closure of East Stadium and remains on track to achieve the target of a million visits. The first quarter financial result is a surplus of \$492k, \$150k ahead of budget, due in part to a timing issue as a result of the changeover of the University's financial system. Venues income is down due to the East Stadium closure, but the University will now meet all the costs of repair including compensation for loss of income and the \$100k insurance excess. The financial forecast remains for a break even end of year position.

The Director outlined progress on key strategic and operational tasks during the first quarter. The Director and Chair recently met with Mr Dan Baird the Executive Director of Corporate Development to determine the next steps to ensure that sport infrastructure is included in the University's Capital Plan. This includes the development of a Business Plan drawing on the information from the Sports Needs Assessment and Investment Case. The University have already approved a significant investment in two projects in the Sports Precinct including the Sports Precinct Refurbishment and the College Arch

The Sports Precinct Refurbishment Project Control Group has now been formed after the University committed \$15M to the concept proposal. The project is now set to commence in January next year subject to confirmation of the decanting plan for the clubs, programs and services. The University's Regulatory Reporting and Surveys Group are now supporting the addition of physical activity questions in the University Survey of Student Experience (USSE) from as early as week 6 of Semester 2.

The Director outlined the focus for the second quarter including the launch of the Strategic Plan and the completion of a Service catalogue as part of the SSAF Review. The Sport Precinct Refurbishment design workshops involving clubs, colleges, students and staff will commence shortly. The East Stadium repairs works are underway, however the slab was discovered to be uneven and needs to be levelled but this is not expected to impact the overall project completion date.

The Annual Club Presidents' Forum is next Tuesday, and the agenda includes an update on the Governance and Operational Review from Dr Burnheim, a Capital Planning and the Sports Precinct Refurbishment update from the Director and Board member Ms. Vinnicombe will outline the Mountaineering Club Strategic Plan. City of Melbourne Inclusion Coach, Mr Johnny Boland will conduct a Sport4All presentation and workshop.

Four current students were recently awarded University Sports Awards for 2024 including Jemima Montag for her two bronze medals at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. The women's AFL Club (MUGARS) with our support has formed a new U19s team with 45 students signed up already. The Netball Club were also recently featured in a Netball Victoria article recognizing the clubs ongoing leadership having played the very first Pride Game back in 2018.

The Director concluded the update.

Mr Warnecke left the meeting at 7.10pm.

#### **Resolution**

*The Advisory Board noted the Update.*

### **4. OTHER BUSINESS**

**4.1** There was no other business.

#### **2.2 Governance and Operating Model Review**

The meeting moved In-Camera.

The Chair noted the Advisory Board's appreciation for the Review Panel's provision of a detailed response to issues raised by Board members regarding the report. Dr Burnheim noted that amendments and clarifications had since been made within the report based on this Board feedback.

Dr Burnheim then updated the Board on the progress of finalising the MU Sport Governance and Operating Model Review report and the university's subsequent consideration of it.

A summary of the main points raised includes:

Future opportunities for amplifying impact and effectiveness; the focus of the report on structure (not culture); the impact of making large changes within the current uncertain environment (eg: potential student caps' impact on future funding); impact of past limited investment in sport; clarification of space charging, facility maintenance costs and small project funding; impact of singular service evaluation methods despite multiple stakeholders; stakeholder change management plan; benefits of the review process; combating organizational silos; articulation of what the role and function of sport is within the University; and the potential benefits of additional spaces.

#### **Resolution**

*The Advisory Board noted the Governance and Operating Model Review.*

#### **Actions**

*The Director and the Advisory Board Secretary to document any matters within the Review which may need to be considered or amended.*

5. **MEETING FINALISATION**

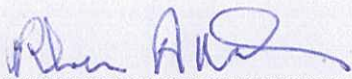
5.1 **Meeting Close**

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

5.2 **Next Meeting**

Next meeting on Thursday 21 August 2025 at 9:30am.

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:



Chair Mr Ian Marshman

21/08/25

Date

**MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD**

**ACTION SHEET 2/2025 – 22 May 2025**

<b>Minute no.</b>	<b>Item Title</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Person/s Responsible</b>
3/2024 2.4	2025 Advisory Board Budget	Distribute comparative finance budget charts to Board members via email	Secretary