

**MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT BOARD**

**MEETING 2/2012 – 26 APRIL 2012**

The minutes of meeting 2/2012 of the Melbourne University Sport Board meeting held on Thursday, 26 April 2012 at 9.00am in the Upper East Dining Room, University House.

**PRESENT:**

Mr Geoff Rees (Chair)  
Professor Mark Hargreaves  
Mr James Sutherland  
Ms Marieke Guehrer  
Mr Mitch Anderson

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Professor Pip Pattison (Acting Provost)  
Mr Tim Lee (Director)  
Mr Jean-Luc Garlick  
Mr Jim Corbett  
Mr Alex Affleck  
Ms Joy Villalino  
Mr Rod Warnecke

**APOLOGIES:**

Professor Margaret Abernethy  
Dr Lynne Williams

**1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Welcome**

The Chair welcomed Board members to the meeting.

**1.2 Apologies**

The Chair accepted the apologies.

**1.3 Minutes from previous meeting**

The previous minutes were passed as a true and accurate record.

**1.4 Confirmation of Circular Resolutions**

There were no items to confirm.

**2. MATTERS FOR DECISION**

**2.1 Financial Statements**

The Director spoke to the March Quarterly Finance Statements. Mr Garlick explained that the variance had not been available at the time that the board papers were distributed. This however would be available shortly. Mr Sutherland

requested that a full commentary also be provided. Mr Affleck provided an update on Lincoln Square Fitness and informed the Board that there were 75 new members. The Director stated that a project group was meeting every fortnight to plan on strategic issues for the new facility.

*Action: That the full variance report with commentary be sent to Board Members*

### **3. STRATEGIC DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1 Sport Capital Improvement Plan**

The Director introduced Mr Corbett from Sports and Leisure Solutions who presented to the Board an update on the project and outlined some of the broader strategies and issues evolving from the consultation process for the consideration of the Board.

Mr Corbett presented on the current work that he had undertaken and provided three options for development in the sports precinct: light, medium and large. Diagrams were shown for each level of development with further work required before the draft report was released in July. The Chair noted that Mr Corbett should also analyse the utilization rates for the Hockey Pitch and Athletics Track but was otherwise on the right track with the plan. Mr Anderson stated he felt that the Athletics Track was an important element of the sports precinct.

The Director informed the Board that off campus facility development would need the support of the University. The University had a good relationship with the Carlton Football Club and was currently looking at a Rugby Centre for Excellence at Princess Park. This would also involve moving the Melbourne University Rugby Club from Royal Park to this facility. Mr Sutherland stated that local residents would be very vocal in opposition to any development at Princess Park. Professor Pattison observed that the University had a good relationship with the Melbourne City Council due to the Carlton Project. The Director outlined that any agreements with the Melbourne City Council would involve P&CS and the Senior Vice Principal, Ian Marshman.

Professor Hargreaves departed the meeting.

*Action: Draft report of Sport Capital Improvement Plan ready for July Board Meeting.*

#### **3.2 Student Services and Amenities Fee**

The Director explained that the University had reinstated a compulsory Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) in 2012, following an alteration to federal legislation in October 2011, and subsequently determined to charge the full amount allowable at \$263 for full-time and \$197 for part-time students. The University, working with student groups and service providers (including MU Sport) developed a draft proposal to distribute the revenue and asked students to provide feedback in November 2011.

University Council finally determined that MU Sport would receive \$2.28m which is 19.5% of the total amount collected at approximately \$53 per student. This was an increase of \$1.03M in University funding from 2011 but \$300,000 less than

the initial allocation to Sport in the draft proposal which included a 'no worse off scenario'. These additional funds were subsequently redistributed to the two student organisations.

The Director stated that it had been determined that the initial priority was to address the backlog in sport related building maintenance and capital projects partly caused as a result of the introduction of *Voluntary Student Unionism* in 2007 whilst also supporting, in a more limited capacity, initiatives to increase participation and improve the quality of sporting performance. As the backlog of maintenance and capital projects was addressed funds could be redirected in future years to increasing participation and improving performance. These strategies would be carefully explored with all stakeholders including sporting clubs and groups and general users over the next 12 months for implementation in 2013 and beyond.

Mr Sutherland enquired as to how funding was allocated to clubs. The Director replied that Mr Warnecke, Sports Development Manager, had negotiated individually with clubs on high performance issues. A Club Agreement was currently being developed that would capture all of these issues. Mr Sutherland stressed that it was important that club strategies aligned with the MU Sport strategy. Professor Pattison asked that a communications plan around the use of the additional funding be developed for the commencement of second semester.

*Action: Prepare SSAF Communications Plan for 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester*

### **3.3 Fitness Services Strategy and Review**

Mr Affleck presented the key strategies and outlined the review process of the fitness strategy for 2012, which was to increase participation and membership. This would be achieved by:

- Increasing capacity – opening Lincoln Square Fitness
- Adjusting pricing and membership options
- Improving customer service and marketing

MU Sport would continue its policy of fitness equipment renewal, ensuring facilities which provide quality and current fitness equipment.

MU Sport develops and implements strategies which are consistent with the Strategic Plan's aim to increase participation, while also remaining mindful of the need to maximise and soundly manage income.

Mr Affleck informed the Board that the review would identify the current operational model, and history of how this service was managed, identifying its strengths and weaknesses as well as investigating other operational models with a view to consider alternatives.

A suitable individual or organisation with specialised sport facility planning, development and management experience would be engaged to research and provide a report on Fitness Service delivery options.

**4. MEETING FINALISATION**

**4.1 Meeting Close**

The Chair asked why the Club Services Agreement was not listed on the agenda and what were the dates for the SACS meetings. The Director replied that the agreement was still in draft format and would come to the Board shortly.

The Chair thanked Professor Patterson for her work and presented her with a gift on behalf of the Board.

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:

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**Mr Geoff Rees**

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**Date**