

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT BOARD

MEETING 4/2012 – 11 OCTOBER 2012

The minutes of meeting 4/2012 of the Melbourne University Sport Board held on Thursday, 11 October 2012 at 9.00am in the Upper East Dining Room, University House.

PRESENT:

Mr Geoff Rees (Chair)
Mr James Sutherland
Ms Marieke Guehrer
Professor Margaret Abernethy
Dr Lynne Williams

IN ATTENDANCE:

Professor Margaret Sheil (Provost)
Mr Andrew Hayes (Cox Architects)
Mr Jim Corbett (Sports & Leisure Solutions)
Mr Paul Borci (Property & Campus Services)
Mr Tim Lee (Director)
Mr Jean-Luc Garlick
Mr Alex Affleck
Ms Joy Villalino
Mr Rod Warnecke
Ms Julie Caundle

APOLOGIES:

Mr Mitch Anderson
Professor Mark Hargreaves

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

Professor Abernethy asked, under agenda item 3.1.6, if the additional staff position in Marketing was budgeted for in 2012. The Director noted that the position was not in the budget but as the position was only one day per week for ½ the year it would have a minimal impact on the budget.

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 2013 Budget

The Board 2013 budget and commentary is prepared in accordance with University Finance Committee requirements and for Board approval consistent with the Terms of Reference.

Dr Williams suggested that the budget submitted to the Board be presented in the format developed earlier in the year and to address specific items from the Strategic Plan in the commentary. The Director outlined that the budget presented was in the format traditionally provided to the University's Finance Committee and that the Board format, with additional details on the expense items, would be prepared and distributed for the December Board meeting.

The Board discussed the merits of presenting a surplus or deficit budget in securing additional financial support from the University. Professor Sheil outlined the University budget process and suggested that the Finance Committee would require a surplus budget to be submitted.

Resolution: That the Board approved the 2013 Budget and Commentary for submission to the University Finance Committee.

Action: That the budget be prepared in the Board format and distributed for the December meeting.

3. STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

3.1 Pavilion Redevelopment Presentation

Mr Hayes from Cox Architects presented the most recent designs and elevations for the Pavilion Redevelopment as approved by the Building Design Review Committee.

The Board discussed a range of design features including the ground entrances to the lower level, the layout of the second level and the challenge to maintain the original turret and social space. It was noted that the functional requirements of the change areas had been maintained despite significant value management of the project and that the plans have been well received by the clubs. The design has been completed with detailed design and construction tender to proceed.

The Director outlined that the available funds for the project were \$5.9M but that \$7M would be required. Several strategies are being pursued including working with the Advancement Office to approach the sporting alumni and applications to the AFL and other external bodies. Mr Sutherland queried the impact on club fundraising by the Pavilion and if donations could be split between the club and the project. The University is proposing to launch a \$400M Giving Campaign in 2013 and it is likely that the Pavilion will be featured to engage the broader alumni.

The Director thanked Andy Hayes and the other architects from Cox, Jim Corbett from Sports and Leisure Solutions and Project Manager Emily Dixon from Property & Campus Services for their efforts on the project.

3.2 Sport Capital Improvement Plan

Melbourne University Sport (MU Sport) in collaboration with Property and Campus Services (P&CS) are developing a *Sport Capital Improvement Plan 2013 - 2023* (SCIP) to ensure that the provision, management and access to sport and recreation facilities complement and enhance the quality of the academic experience at the University.

Project Consultant Jim Corbett updated the Board on progress and presented the Executive Summary of the draft report. The final report has not yet been completed as initially proposed as the development and consultation process has been more complex than originally anticipated. Consultation to date has included the Board, MU Sport staff, P&CS, clubs and the Melbourne City Council.

The Vision for Sport is *“That the University of Melbourne will be the leading Australian University for sporting performance, level of participation and the quality of facilities.”* The vision provides the focus for consideration of the issues as they arise consistent with the following principles:

- Increase opportunities for the University community to engage in regular physical activity through the provision of quality facilities that are conveniently located, easy to access with the flexibility and capacity to meet the diverse and constantly changing needs of the University community.
- Recognise the benefits of informal activity by providing a range of informal play spaces convenient to groups and individuals.
- Support high performance sport by providing access for the University of Melbourne clubs, teams and athletes to the best quality training and competition venues available, many of which will be located off campus.

The plan was outlined to the sporting clubs at the October Club Forum and the draft report then distributed for feedback. The response to the intention of the plan to engage the University in the development and improvement of sporting facilities has been positively received, however, there has been some negative response to specific elements of the plan.

The report includes two proposals for the Sport Precinct that deal with the short and longer term issues in turn. The first option addresses some immediate concerns in regards to vehicle and pedestrian movement, the removal of the work sheds and relocating the Group Fitness to the Beaurepaire. This also provides additional space for instructional clubs in the Sports Centre

Option 2 attempts to address the longer term issues of providing additional indoor court space, the deteriorating condition of the Sports Centre and issues with the aquatic centre. This option proposes a new building on the western boundary to include a three court stadium and new aquatic facility. This option

would require a significant capital investment but due to the constraints of the site also requires the removal of the athletics track. This proposal also allows for the demolition of the Sports Centre to open up the Sports Precinct.

The Board discussed Option 2 at length. Some of the Board members had received feedback on this option directly from concerned club members and others. The proposed site of the new building along the border with Trinity College has also not been tested and may be met with some resistance.

After lengthy consideration the Board agreed that they supported the development of additional courts and a new aquatic facility but determined that they would not support the relocating of the athletics track, both as this would be an unpopular decision and that the iconic nature of the track in the Sports Precinct was worth preserving.

The Board encouraged Mr Corbett and Project Manager Paul Borci to include the option of a development to the south of the Beaufort Centre as had been suggested previously and they report back to the Board in the New Year.

Resolution: That the Board did not support the removal of the athletics track from the Sports Precinct and the option for a building south of the Beaufort Centre be explored further for inclusion in the Sport Capital Improvement Plan.

Professor Sheil departed the meeting at 10.50am.

4. MATTERS FOR NOTING

4.1 Director's Report

4.1.1 Lincoln Square Fitness Centre Updated Business Plan

The Director reported that the updated Business Plan for Lincoln Square Fitness, including the marketing activities to date, had been prepared by Operations Manager Alex Affleck and sent out with the Board papers for information.

4.1.2 Boat House Function

The Director noted that Sharyn May from the Maytrix Group had completed a review of the operations and business performance of the Boat House Function Space. The report identified poor marketing and a low conversion of inquiries caused by a complex inquiry and booking process, and unwieldy cost structure and some deficiencies with the venue amenity. Business Manager, Jean-Luc Garlick was now heading a Project Group to review and institute recommendations in the report and on an ongoing basis ensure that the financial returns from the function space were maximized. A summary of the report and the key findings were sent out with the Board papers for the information of the Board.

4.1.3 Major Facility Audit Summary Report

Operations Manager Alex Affleck had provided a summary of the facility audit recently completed by Dennis Hunt and Associates for the information of the Board. A list of facilities managed by MU Sport or occupied by sporting clubs had also been provided.

4.1.4 Sport Australian University Games (AUG)

The Director announced that the University of Melbourne was the 2012 Australian University Games Overall Champions after five days of competition conducted recently in Adelaide. The 450 member team won 13 national university championships to triumph over arch rivals Monash University and the University of Sydney both with ten championships each. This year was the first overall victory since 2006 and the fifth time that the University had taken the overall trophy from the 20 AUGs held to date. The achievement was a credit to all the athletes, coaches and team managers who participated along with the superb work of the MU Sport staff team lead by Katie Duncan and Rod Warnecke.

5. MEETING FINALISATION

5.1 Meeting Close

Mr Sutherland asked about having a Board meeting at the Boat House. The Director welcomed the idea and agreed to organize the April 2013 Strategic Planning meeting at the Boat House.

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:

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Mr Geoff Rees

28.02.2013
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Date