

**MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT BOARD  
MEETING 3/2015 – 23 JULY 2015**

The minutes of meeting 3/2015 of the Melbourne University Sport Board was held on Thursday 23 July 2015 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom at MU Sport.

**PRESENT:**

Professor James Angus (Chair)  
Mr Grant Williams  
Mr James Marburg  
Professor Margaret Abernethy  
Mr Adrian Collette

**APOLOGIES:**

Ms Kate Roffey  
Mr Andrew Gillies  
Professor Richard James

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Tim Lee (Director)  
Mr Jean-Luc Garlick (Secretary)  
Ms Kylie Gould  
Mr Chris Harvey  
Mr Rod Warnecke  
Ms Julie Caundle (note taker)

**1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Welcome**

The Director noted that this was Professor Angus' first meeting as the Chair. The Chair thanked the Director for the induction and lunch.

**1.2 Apologies**

Apologies were noted.

**1.3 Minutes from previous meeting**

The minutes were passed as a true and accurate record. It was agreed that Professor James would sign the minutes as Acting Chair for that meeting.

**1.4 Confirmation of Circular Resolutions**

There were no circular resolutions to confirm.

**1.5 Business Arising/Action Item Updates**

**1.5.1 Strategic Plan Review**

The Director noted that the update of the discussion paper had been deferred until the release of the Growing Esteem 2015 – 2020, which has now occurred. The update is now proceeding but has not been completed as yet.

**1.5.2 Sporting Club Funding Review**

Mr Warnecke noted that this item had also been deferred until Growing Esteem had been released. The Chair asked when both the Sporting Club

Review and the Strategic Plan discussion paper would be completed. The Director committed to have both completed within four weeks for consideration at the next Board meeting

**1.5.3 2014 Review and 2015 Strategic Objective**

Mr Garlick has added additional graphs to the finance report as requested by Mr Williams. Mr Williams thanked Mr Garlick for this information.

**2. MATTERS FOR DECISION**

There were no matters for decision.

**3. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

**3.1 Mountaineering Club**

Ms Kylie Gould – University General Counsel and Executive Director provided a briefing on the recent accident involving a student member of the Mountaineering Club. Ms Gould left the meeting at 6.30pm.

**3.2 Go8 Australian Rules Competition**

The Director and Mr Warnecke presented the proposal for a Group of Eight (Go8) Australian Rules national competition to commence in 2017. The proposal has evolved from the success of the Australian Boat Race (ABR) and the Varsity Cup in South Africa, which is the first successful national university sporting competition outside of North America. The ABR has prompted interest from other Go8 Universities in a national competition.

A dynamic national university sporting competition would engage the University community and alumni and provided a cohort experience for international and local students. The competition would be an opportunity to attract broader community interest, media and corporate support similar to the very successful North American University competitions (NCAA).

Australian Rules was chosen as the indigenous game and most popular national spectator sport with a strong university culture. The recent modest success of the Varsity Challenge (Monash) and ANU game had increased the interest of other Go8 universities and if the competition is successful it is proposed that a Netball competition would quickly follow to provide opportunities for female students.

The next step was to develop an expression of interest (EOI) and business plan with a focus on media and sponsorship opportunities. A licensing model is proposed to ensure adequate resources to support the competition and to allow for the use of the various University brands.

Professor Abernethy noted that the competition should aim to attract international students. The Director stated that intention was that international students would be a key target and that a proposed student engagement program with the Melbourne Football Club would increase their knowledge of Australian Rules.

At least six of the Go8 universities have indicated their interest in being involved with the travel to WA likely to limit the involvement of UWA in the first instance. An approach may be made to the University of Tasmania as the lack of an AFL team

the state might ensure that the a team would receive significant support from the state government. There were several games already in planning between Sydney, UQ, Adelaide and Melbourne in 2016 to further test the concept.

The proposal will be tested more widely within the University Executive over the coming months to ensure broad support. The Chair thanked the Director and Mr Warnecke for the presentation and felt that the initiative was a positive step forward for University sport.

#### **4. MATTERS FOR NOTING**

##### **4.1 Finance Report**

Mr Garlick presented the finance report and noted that expenditure variances were due to timing issues and some salary saving and that membership income was up against budget.. The Director noted the operating position and forecast were both in surplus. The Chair asked about the funds in the report held externally and why this was the case. Mr Garlick explained the background to the accounts and that the bank statements were only sighted infrequently and the balance was not current. The Chair asked for an update on the balances be included in the next financial statement.

Mr Harvey updated the Board on the Trusts and Sport Foundation and raised concerns about benefaction to sport might be directed incorrectly. An update on organisational references would be included in the bequest guidelines.

The Finance report was noted.

*Action:*

That the Business Manager will report on external accounts.

##### **4.2 Director's Report**

The Director's report was noted and the following items discussed:

###### **4.2.1 Open House Melbourne**

The Ernie Cropley Pavilion was the venue for the Launch of the Open House Melbourne program in late June. The Pavilion and Boat House was showcased along with seven other University of Melbourne buildings and spaces during the Open House Melbourne Weekend 25-26 July.

###### **4.2.2 Queen's Birthday Honours**

An impressive list of alumni and staff associated with sport at the University were recognised in the most recent Queen's Birthday Honours. These achievements were acknowledged with a letter and news item on our website.

###### **4.2.3 Raise the Bar**

Increased funding had been secured from the Higher Education Participation and Partnership Program Committee (HEPPP) for the Raise the Bar Academy, the Indigenous Pathway Program conducted in partnership with Athletics Australia in 2015. \$30,000 in funding has been provided which will be matched by Athletics Australia with the Institute for Indigenous Development, Murrup Barak also committing \$10,000 towards the program.

The additional funding would allow the program to increase from 25 to 40 participants and add an additional day to the program.

#### **4.2.4 International Travel Grants**

The Melbourne Engagement Grants Scheme (formerly the Cultural and Community Relations Advisory Group) had provided \$25,000 for both 2015 and 2016 to assist with the cost of international travel for student-athletes selected to represent Australia (or their country of origin) in international sporting events. This was the first time that forward funding had been committed by the University for athlete support.

#### **4.2.5 Student Services and Amenities Fee Review**

The Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) was reintroduced in 2012 to allow the University to charge fees for a range of student services including sport. This year over \$12.7M would be collected of which MU Sport received \$2.5M in an arrangement due to expire in 2016. The allocation of the SSAF was to be reviewed this year and a consultant Dr Kerry Ferguson had been engaged to conduct the review. Kerry will attend the next Board meeting.

#### **4.2.6 Representative Sport and Elite Athlete Performances**

The University was represented by nine student-athletes at the recent World University Games in Gwanju, Korea. Elite athlete Dylan Alcott won the French Wheelchair Tennis Open in June and also claimed the World No. 1 Ranking.

#### **4.2.7 The Australian Boat Race**

The Australian Boat Race (ABR) against Sydney University will return to the Yarra on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of October. A College Challenge Race had been proposed to hopefully increase the spectator numbers and improve the atmosphere. Trinity (men's) and Ormond (women's) have been invited to represent the University as the winners at the College Regatta.

#### **4.2.8 Chairman's Farewell Dinner**

The farewell dinner was proceeding on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

#### **4.2.8 Engagement Report to University Executive**

The Director noted for information the MU Sport contribution to Mr Collette's report that goes to Senior Executive every month. Board members were invited to add to the report.

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair suggested that a Strategic Planning Day would be useful for the Board. The Director noted that two of the board meetings each year are focused on strategic issues but that the proposal will be considered in setting the meeting schedule for 2016.

## **6. MEETING FINALISATION**

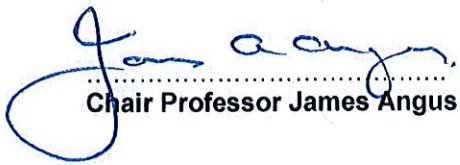
### **6.1 Meeting Close**

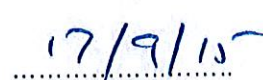
The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

**6.2 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 September at 9.00am in the Boardroom.

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:

  
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Chair Professor James Angus

  
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Date

**MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT BOARD  
ACTION SHEET 3/2015 – 23 July 2015**

<b>Minute no.</b>	<b>Item Title</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Person/s Responsible</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
MUS Board 5/14 Item 3.3.1	Strategic Plan Review	The Executive Summary to be updated and distributed to the Board for the next meeting.	Director	The Executive Summary will be distributed prior to the meeting.
MUS Board 5/14 Item 3.3.2	Sporting Club Funding Review	The Discussion Paper to be provided at the next meeting.	Mr Warnecke	The paper is attached to the Director's report.
MUS Board 3/15 Item 4.1	Finance Report	To report on external accounts.	Mr Garlick	To be provided with the September quarterly report at the November Board meeting.