

**MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT BOARD
MEETING 3/2017 – 21 September 2017**

The minutes of meeting 3/2017 of the Melbourne University Sport Board held on Thursday 21 September 2017 at 9.30am in the Boardroom of the Nona Lee Sports Centre.

PRESENT:

Professor James Angus (Chair)
Mr Grant Williams
Ms Miranda Clark
Mr Mitchell Stephen

APOLOGIES:

Professor Richard James
Ms Kate Roffey
Mr James Marburg
Mr Adrian Collette

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Tim Lee (Director)
Mr Alex Affleck
Mr Rod Warnecke
Mr Carl Junot
Mr Aaron McNaughton
Ms Julie Caundle (minute taker)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present including Ms Clarke and Mr Mitchell who are attending their first meeting. The Chair outlined that the Board acts as an advisory group to the Vice-Chancellor. Ms Clark and Mr Stephen were asked to provide a brief introduction. The Director outlined that for future meetings Managers would only attend if they were presenting or required for the discussion on an item.

1.2 Apologies

The Chair noted the apologies and outlined that the process to replace Professor Abernethy had not been finalised.

1.3 Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes were passed as a true and accurate record.

1.4 Confirmation of Circular Resolutions

There were no circular resolutions to confirm.

1.5 Business Arising/Action Item Updates

1.5.1 Sport Capital Planning

The Director noted that the update of the Hockey and Athletics facility plan would be covered under the Sport Capital Planning Presentation.

1.5.2 Club Governance Review

The Director as requested at the previous meeting included an update of the Club Governance Review in the Chancellery Executive Note on Rope Based Activities.

2. MATTERS FOR DECISION

There were no matters for decision.

3. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 Sport Capital Planning Update

The Board had determined that sport facilities were a critical element to achieving the strategic goals for sport and should be a standing item at each meeting. In the absence of Mr Garlick Mr Affleck presented the report.

A business case was developed, with the Business Intelligence Unit (BIU), for the South Precinct Facility for presentation to the University's Capital Advisory Group (CAG) August meeting. The business case contained financial modelling to support the development of the \$13M facility and requested \$30,000 to identify a possible site for either leasing, re-purpose or a new construction

A CAG meeting in 2016 had considered a range of sport project bids and determined that the South Precinct project was a 'highly desirable project'. CAG determined not to provide the funds but recommended that the project investigation continue noting that given the current environment funding for implementation was not guaranteed.

The Chair outlined that Mr Collette had endorsed the project bid and supported the development of the business case from the Chancellery and was confident that we should continue with the project. There was however great urgency with this project as the Metro Rail Project will restrict access for students south of Grattan St to the Sports Precinct.

The Director outlined that CAG referenced how the South Precinct project would align with the Sport Facility Master plan and business strategy. It was noted that the Sport Capital Plan 2013 – 2023 was only endorsed in 2012 by the Board and that many of the elements were still current. However, it would be prudent to consider an update at some stage in collaboration with Chancellery Planning. It was noted that this might take some time and should not hold up the consideration of projects that had already been identified in the Sport Capital Plan.

Mr Affleck presented the plans for a \$10M sport facility proposed for University High School. The Director outlined that the Principal, Ms Heather Thompson, approached the VC earlier in the year seeking support for the development on the Royal Parade boundary. The development would provide opportunities for our clubs and sport programs consistent with the Sport Facility Master Plan. The VC subsequently indicated his support to explore the proposal further but has requested that Ms Thompson confirm any possible collaboration with the Education Department.

Mr Affleck presented the plans prepared by North Melbourne Football Club (NMFC) for a significant redevelopment of the Arden Precinct resulting from the construction of a Metro Rail station opposite the ground incorporating significant student accommodation. The NMFC precinct proposal includes a major upgrade and expansion to the current indoor and outdoor facilities that would possibly service some of our clubs but also our students ultimately living in close proximity to the site. NMFC are seeking an expression of interest from the University as a community partner but have not requested any funding support as they are confident that the development will be funded from a green space levy applied to the accommodation developers. The Director outlined that the women's football club currently train on the oval and are aligned with NMFC but we would need to clarify the benefits and access arrangements for the University prior to agreeing to any formal commitment.

The repair of the delaminated areas of the athletics track will commence later in the year with the scoreboard project set to proceed in October. Agreement had been reached with Cricket, Football and Athletics and Trinity College to approach sporting alumni to raise at least \$50,000 to name the scoreboard in honor of Frank Henegan. Frank was a life member of the three clubs and long term staff member at Trinity College. In the event that the fund raising was successful the proposal would need the support of the Board and the University prior to proceeding.

Resolution

The Board noted the Sport Capital Planning update.

3.2 2018 Budget

The Director presented the 2018 Budget.

The forecast end of year surplus of \$484,000 is aligned with the 5% contingency recommended by the Board in 2016. The \$2.7m in accumulated surplus is generally set aside for capital projects.

Major income items include \$3.2M from the Student Services Amenities Fee (SSAF) which is 19.79% of total SSAF collected by the University. The percentage allocated to MU Sport is less than to the sport departments at Sydney and UWA who receive over 35%. The largest single income line is the \$3.3m fitness income with a growth of 5% in 2017. Student fees have been capped at the 2015 level but community and staff increase by 3% annually. Commercial income is forecast to grow by 7% to \$1.3M.

Major expenditure items include salaries at \$2.37M, an increase of 3% in accordance with the University EBA. Buildings and Grounds is the second largest item at \$1.22M including cleaning, minor works, utilities and grounds. Club will receive over \$500K for support for club coaching, management and external venue hire. Close to \$200K has been set aside for student engagement and leadership programs aligned with the Strategic Plan.

The Director presented the income comparisons from 2010 – 2018 to demonstrate the variations over that period in the various income streams. The biggest shift has been in the SSAF (27% to 38% of total income) since the introduction of SSAF in 2012. Commercial income has increased by 85%. The lack of funding certainty for projects supported by the SSAF Grant Program will create ongoing budget volatility.

The expenditure comparison from 2010 – 2018 was also presented. The key budget driver is to increase funding to participation activities and reduce expenses in back of house, such as administration and finance. The increase in fitness expenditure has been gradual due to salary savings over the last three years. Marketing expenditure has increased significantly during this period and now receives an additional \$400K per annum. The percentage of expenditure for administration has remained constant whilst buildings and grounds has increased 13 – 17% with a focus on addressing the backlog of maintenance.

Resolution

The Board noted the 2018 Budget

3.3 Elite Athlete Program

Mr Warnecke presented an Elite Athlete Program update which will be presented on an annual basis.

Mr Warnecke outlined that Kim Brennan (nee Crow). Rio 2016 Olympic gold medallist is our highest profile Elite Athlete Program member. The program commenced in 2004 with minimal sport scholarships and study assistance and little impact on uncooperative

academics. Ms Brennan started her successful journey in rowing at the 2005 Australian University Games. In 2008 the University signed on to the Australian Sports Commission's Elite Athlete Friendly University Network, which formalised a process for flexible study assistance.

The EAP is currently supporting over 300 student-athletes annually who receive over \$115K in scholarship support, including 60 student-athletes that were awarded an International Travel Grant. 123 student-athletes are eligible for flexible study assistance.

Mr Warnecke outlined the good work of Coordinator Mr Brendan Parnell in building contacts amongst faculties and graduate schools to augment the University's one-stop-shop, STOP 1. In 2015 the first Strength and Conditioning Coach, Mr Tony Sephton, was appointed and now works with over 100 student-athletes on a regular basis significantly expanding the scope of the service and increasing the level of engagement with student-athletes.

Professor James had been instrumental in moving the Elite Athlete Entry Scheme from a compensation-based scheme to a guarantee-based scheme that will provide a level of certainty for prospective student-athletes. The program recognizes that elite student-athletes generally make outstanding alumni and their sporting performance and community leadership support the University's brand.

A Selection Panel will be convened shortly to endorse the first crop of applicants under the new scheme. The panel will comprise Professor James, previous Board member Professor Hargreaves, Associate Professor Michelle Livett, Director, Bachelor of Science and Dr Alice McNamara, elite athlete and alumna.

The EAP is well regarded by our student-athletes, our compatriots at other universities and by stakeholders such as the Victorian Institute of Sport and the Australian Sports Commission. The Elite Athlete Program Information Sessions are well attended on Open Day and feature prominently in the Open Day brochure and in the University's Scholarship prospectus.

Future tasks include targeting additional student recruitment opportunities and to promote the student-athletes more widely and work with Advancement to seek additional support for our elite athletes.

The Director thanked Mr Warnecke and Professor James for their patience and diligence.

Resolution

The Board endorsed the members of the EAES Selection Panel.

4. MATTERS FOR NOTING

4.1 Director and Unit Reports

The Director presented the report.

The Director congratulated the staff involved in the Water Safety Program and the recent AUG launch and noted the continued support of the Provost, Professor Sheil. It was noted that Professor Hargreaves has agreed to Chair the Governance group for the Australian Boat Race.

The Director highlighted the recent success of Mr Junot in securing funds for the Raise the Bar program and that \$2M had been received in pledges for the Boat Club Chapter. The next Club Forum is to be held in October and Ms Clark and Mr Stephen suggested that the format allow for greater interaction between the clubs rather than the current lecture style presentation. The Chair suggested that the meeting be divided between

presentations and topics that clubs had suggested. Mr Williams also suggested that the delegates sit around tables to encourage conversation instead of the current rows of seats. The Director agreed to consider the suggestions further.

The Director noted that the Chancellor had been the first to respond to the recent release of the Strategic Plan for Sport discussion paper. The Chair had several suggestions including providing more visual elements to support the two pillars that would also illustrate the link to the University's Growing Esteem Strategy. Mr Williams said that he felt there was minimal reference to clubs and suggested the inclusion of a reference to the previous Strategic Plan.

The Director thanked the Board for the feedback and outlined that he would consider the Board and other feedback, present the plan at the Club Forum and provide a summary to the Board meeting in November.

Resolution

The Director's Report was noted.

4.2 2017 July Finance Report

The Director presented the 2017 July Finance report.

Resolution

The Finance report was accepted as read.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

6. MEETING FINALISATION

6.1 Meeting Close

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the proceedings at 11.30am.

6.2 Next Meeting

Thursday 9 November at 9.30am.

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:

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Chair Professor James Angus

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Date