

CLUB ADVISORY GROUP
Meeting 1/2022 – 06 June 2022

The minutes of meeting 1/2022 of the Club Advisory Group held on 06 June 2022 at 6.00pm in the Board Room, Nona Lee Sports Centre.

PRESENT:

Mr Tim Lee (Director of Sport/Chair)
Mr Bob Girdwood (Football)
Mr Samuel Hoffmann (Dancesport)
Mr Maciej Necki (Underwater)
Ms Amelia Smith (Basketball)

APOLOGIES:

Ms Ruby Craven (Surfriders)
Mr Michael Owen (Soccer)
Ms Rosemary Bissett (Volleyball)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Rod Warnecke (Sport Development Manager)
Mr Tom Mullumby (Club Coordinator, Secretary)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present. The Chair introduced first meeting attendees Mr Samuel Hoffmann and Ms Amelia Smith.

1.2 Apologies

Mr Warnecke advised that Mr Michael Owen, Ms Rosemary Bissett and Ms Ruby Craven were apologies.

1.3 Minutes from previous meeting

Mr Girdwood requested that in (2.2) New Club Funding Requests, that the specific recommendations the Club Advisory Group made for each club request be listed as a resolution in the minutes. Mr Warnecke agreed to add this as a table before posting on the website. The minutes were accepted as a true record.

The Chair advised of the updated process for minutes distribution, such that draft minutes will be circulated to the Club Advisory Group, which will include a due date for members to accept the minutes via circular resolution as true and accurate.

Action

CAG recommendations for new funding requests from Meeting 03/2021 be added to the relevant resolution in the previous minutes.

1.4 Business arising/action items from previous meeting

1.4.1 *Update club funding principles framework to be presented to CAG before any future operational funding requests were considered.*

Mr Warnecke advised this was an agenda item (2.1) for this meeting.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

2.1 Club Funding Framework

Mr Warnecke introduced the previous existing Club Operational Funding Guideline as well as the Club Funding Framework Project Plan with the stated objective to develop a Club Funding Framework to replace the existing guideline to provide a transparent, clearly articulated and equitable framework for the allocation of future club operational funding. Mr Warnecke added the need to provide clarity on the process on how clubs can apply or access additional funding and to ensure MU Sport can appropriately budget for this funding. The Project Plan also included a timeline for stakeholder engagement including feedback from CAG and clubs.

Mr Girdwood queried as to whether the plan was to incorporate recurring operational funding or additional seed funding such as the existing Club Project Fund. Mr Warnecke advised that the plan would review annual operational funding and identifying the inequities and gaps in existing allocations. Mr Girdwood agreed that an updated process for funding requests was critical, as was communication with clubs regarding their requests which he flagged he would also speak to later in the meeting.

Mr Necki stressed the importance for the framework to keep language as simple as possible and suggested including examples of how support principles can apply. Mr Hoffmann queried the existing guidelines and their focus on funding for competitive clubs. Mr Warnecke advised that the project will look to remove the focus on competitive clubs and rather address how funding principles may apply to all clubs. Mr Necki commented that there has been a Blues award for Underwater, and that most clubs can have a competitive element to some of their activities.

The Chair emphasised the importance of the project to incorporate greater transparency and equity, and a clear objective that with an updated framework everyone should understand how funding works. The Chair suggested we have been tied up with some conflicting narratives that needed to be unpicked and that the ongoing impacts of COVID would also mean that we have to consider what these decisions will mean practically, with resources likely continuing to be under pressure as we rebound from the pandemic. The Chair added that a club's ability to co-contribute would continue to be a factor of support consideration.

Mr Girwood suggested that an estimate of total hours of student engagement with the club should be an important indicator of level of support, which he suggested had been skewed towards elite competition. Ms Smith suggested there should be two streams of support for student participation while also working to support students being able to play at the highest level possible, with the importance for a club to be able to provide such a pathway.

Resolution

The CAG endorsed the Club Funding Framework Project Plan.

2.2 Sport Capital Infrastructure Plan Project Update

The Chair advised that project would update the previous plan from 2012, with an objective to demonstrate why the University should be investing in sport facilities. The consultant engaged by MU Sport was also importantly involved with the University's Estates Plan. The Chair talked to some of the next steps which included a draft report which would provide a further opportunity for stakeholder feedback.

Mr Girdwood suggested that a priority should be greater investment in local council facilities where clubs compete and train, as facilities are inadequate for the current demands. The Chair agreed and advised that the plan would also address this issue and that it was important for the University to 'have skin in the game' where our clubs had been tenants for such a long time. He added that pre-season access also now presented a significant challenge in addition to seasonal access.

Resolution

The Sport Capital Infrastructure Plan Project Update was noted.

2.3 Club Storage Guidelines

Mr Mullumby advised the Club Storage Guidelines aim to reflect existing practices in a transparent manne. Mr Mullumby highlighted some key principles around storage allocations such as where the club trained and competed, the amount of equipment required for club activities and the amount of manual handling required. The process for considering new storage requests would start with a club request with MU Sport auditing existing storage allocations to address the request and make relevant recommendations.

The Chair suggested to include the provision of skip bins and rubbish removal opportunities in the guideline. Mr Necki agreed that the removal of wheelie bins on campus had presented a challenge to keep storage tidy. Mr Necki suggested that storage spaces for many clubs, particularly recreational clubs, also presented a key visibility and promotional tool particularly for passing foot traffic. Ms Smith agreed with the ongoing challenge of lack of visibility of the basketball courts. Mr Necki suggested adding a section on damage and maintenance, so responsibilities and actions were clear.

Resolution

The CAG endorsed the Club Storage Guidelines.

Action

Provide feedback to Facilities for consideration and amending the guideline where appropriate.

3. MATTERS FOR NOTING

3.1 Club Membership/Funding Report

Mr Mullumby presented an updated membership/funding report based on feedback and from CAG's meeting 3/2021. Mr Mullumby highlighted some information remained missing due to club submissions being incomplete. The report also incorporated 2021 club financials from the Club Financial Health Check submissions and confirmed 2022 club operational funding.

Mr Necki suggested the importance of having an improved system where MU Sport manages a database of club information. Mr Girdwood agreed, adding the report was very useful but was concerned where a club was unable to provide membership information which he suggested was a basic element of running a club. The Chair agreed with the importance for MU Sport to have a better level of oversight of club information, from membership and finances through to other areas of compliance and where additional reporting was required, that the burden shouldn't fall solely on club committees without MU Sport provided additional service support.

Resolution

The CAG noted the Club Membership/Funding Report.

3.2 Sport Development Report

Mr Warnecke presented the Sport Development Report. Mr Warnecke highlighted (3.7) the Club Affiliation Review indicating that MU Sport would be seeking clarity from the University on their expectations and arrangements that would better protect clubs, and the University, when dealing with risk and other significant issues in the future. This undertaking would also include how the club - University relationship was reflected in club constitutions and the process of becoming a club member and the associated obligations of membership.

Resolution

The Sport Development Report was noted.

3.2 Other Business

Mr Girdwood expressed his disappointment that the new club funding requests which were discussed and endorsed at the CAG's meeting 03/2021 had not been included in 2022 club operational funding and that this had not been communicated back to the CAG.

Mr Warnecke advised that budgetary constraints across the entire organisation had unfortunately resulted in new funding not being possible for 2022. Communication to this end had been communicated directly to each club that had submitted new funding requests in early 2022. Mr Warnecke agreed that this position should've also been provided to the CAG and apologised for the omission. A process for responding to new club funding

requests and subsequent decisions regarding such requests would be considered in the Club Funding Framework project.

4. MEETING FINALISATION

4.1 Meeting Close

The Chair thanked everyone present for their time.

4.2 Next Meeting

Mr Warnecke noted the next meeting date will be on Monday 8 August.

Action Sheet 1/2022

Minute no.	Item Title	Action	Person/s Responsible	Current Status
1.3	Minutes from previous meeting	CAG recommendations for new funding requests from the Meeting 03/2021 be added to the relevant resolution in the previous minutes.	Tom Mullumby	Completed
2.3	Club Storage Guidelines	<i>Provide feedback to Facilities for consideration and amending the guideline where appropriate.</i>	Tom Mullumby	Completed