

CLUB ADVISORY GROUP
Meeting 1/2021 - 9 June 2021

The minutes of meeting 1/2021 of the Club Advisory Group held on 9 June 2021 at 6.00pm via Zoom.

PRESENT:

Mr Tim Lee (Director of Sport/Chair)
Ms Rosemary Bissett (Volleyball)
Mr Bob Girdwood (Football)
Ms Olivia Honore (Boat)
Mr Maciej Necki (Underwater)
Mr Michael Owen (Soccer)

APOLOGIES:

Ms Jodi Kelly (Touch Football)

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 and thanked those who volunteered their time with the Club Advisory Group (CAG). The Director or Chair mentioned MU Sport is working towards a COVID resumption.

1.2 Apologies

Mr Warnecke advised that Ms Kelly had indicated that due to additional commitments has had to step down from the CAG. There are now two vacancies in the group and Mr Warnecke added that the intention is to seek expressions of interest for the positions.

1.3 Minutes from previous meeting

Mr Girdwood recalled that it was agreed that the previous meeting minutes be circulated shortly after the meeting. Mr Warnecke apologised for not circulating the minutes earlier and committed to providing unconfirmed minutes to the group in future and indicated the aim to do so within two weeks of the meeting.

Mr Girdwood recalled that the redrafted club performance strategy would be circulated to the group. Mr Warnecke advised discussion paper feedback was communicated to clubs via the December Club Operations Memo, and that club and CAG feedback was incorporated into the final Sporting Club Performance Strategy which was endorsed by the Board earlier in the year and was tabled for discussion at this meeting.

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Action

To provide the CAG with unconfirmed minutes prior to the next meeting.

1.4 Business arising/action items from the previous meeting

1.4.1 Club Performance Strategy and Club Feedback

Mr Warnecke confirmed that club feedback from the Sporting Club Performance Strategy discussion paper had been responded to, and the strategy was to be discussed in the meeting before being distributed to clubs in the coming weeks.

1.4.2 Club Office Bearer's Survey

Mr Warnecke advised that previous CAG feedback was incorporated into an updated Club Office Bearer Survey, but the survey was not distributed in 2019 due to COVID-19 limiting the majority of club activities.

1.4.3 Cheerleading Club Name Change request

Mr Warnecke confirmed the Cheer and Dance Club name change with MU Sport's Executive Management Group and assistance was provided to the Club for rebranding and logistics.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

2.1 Sporting Club Performance Strategy

Mr Warnecke advised an updated Club Performance Strategy with incorporated feedback went to the Advisory Board for its March meeting. The strategy has now been brought back to the CAG as per the previous commitment. The significant change to the strategy, aligned with club and CAG feedback saw the concept of student quotas replaced with agreed targets. Mr Warnecke advised that the Board requested the addition of a succinct summary of the actions/targets to be adding to the strategy.

Ms Bissett suggested the strategy would encourage clubs to ensure they were building student-athlete pathway, however remained a need to recognise having a mix of other athletes and alumni who contributed to club administration. Ms Bissett further suggested having target timeframes would be important for clubs and MU Sport to work collaboratively towards strategy targets, thus increasing capacity for achievement rather than failure. will work to lift up and increase club capacity to succeed rather than fail.

Mr Girdwood suggested the targets would be challenging for some clubs and it would be important to support clubs to achieve them while ensuring their performance levels didn't drop off. Ms Bissett thought the scholarship actions and targets would provide a great opportunity to attract students to stay at Melbourne rather than go overseas. Mr Lee reiterated that the strategy further provided an opportunity to leverage the University brand in recruiting potential student-athletes on to campus and into club programs.

Mr Warnecke advised that a number of clubs had already contacted MU Sport following the distribution of the strategy discussion paper looking to engage in programs aligned with the strategy.

The Director or Chair and Mr Warnecke advised that annual KPI's would be developed and measured and would be reported back to the CAG at the end of the year. Mr Owen suggested the aim that clubs are the first choice of students could include tracking the proportion of EAP and intervarsity student- athletes who play with clubs, and this would be a good KPI.

Resolution

The CAG noted the Sporting Club Performance Strategy.

Action

Distribute MU Sport's 2021 Sporting Club Performance Strategy KPIs to the CAG.

2.2 Club Funding Requests

Mr Warnecke advised despite the impacts of COVID-19 MU Sport was able to return 2021 club funding levels to the same level (plus CPI) as in 2019, with the first instalment of funds already distributed and the second instalment to be distributed in early semester 2. Mr Warnecke advised two additional funding requests had been received and were tabled for discussion. Both requests aligned with current club funding principles.

Mr Girdwood asked where the 2021 Club Funding Summary could be found. Mr Warnecke advised the summary would be provided to the CAG for its next meeting. Ms Bissett suggested there could be opportunities for joint club funding, citing the example of video equipment in the stadiums for game analysis and/or live-stream capabilities for the benefit of multiple clubs. Mr Warnecke agreed and advised this project had been listed in MU Sport's Facility Improvement Plan for future consideration. The CAG agreed that clubs collaborating together for potential funding projects would be advantageous and that clubs should consider submitting proposals for multiple club stakeholders.

Mr Girdwood asked for an update on how sport funding for 2021 may have been impacted due to COVID-19. The Director or The Chair advised that MU Sport's funding for 2021 was reduced as a result of the pandemic and some programs had their resources reduced. The Director or The Chair suggested that the University's financial position had been impacted largely by the reduction of international students however total enrolment numbers were slightly greater than forecast. The Director or The Chair added that the expected financial losses led to the University's voluntary redundancy program and a freeze on the capital works program. MU Sport was somewhat quarantined due to the less-than-anticipated impact on SSAF, however the slow return of students on campus had resulted in MU Sport deciding to adjust its forecast to not include a contingency and to also trim most budgets. The Director or The Chair finished with promising news from the Vice-Chancellor with the intention of up to 90% of classes returning on campus for semester 2.

Resolution

The CAG noted the impact of COVID-19 on the finances of the University and MU Sport.

Action

Provide a copy of the 2021 Club Funding Summary to the CAG for its next meeting.

2.2.1 Netball Club Request

Mr Warnecke advised the Netball Club request aligns with the funding principle of external venue hire, and there is some room in the current budget for support. Mr Warnecke added that he is currently on the Netball Lightning committee of management.

Mr Girdwood asked what current funding the club receives. Mr Mullumby advised \$15,811 for coaching and \$15,652 for administration.

Ms Bissett asked if we have returned to previous operating hours and exhausted opportunities in the stadium. Mr Warnecke advised whilst we have reduced opening hours to save costings over the

weekend, some clubs have had key members inducted to effectively run closed training sessions. Netball was also seeking to train mid-week.

Ms Bissett was interested in benchmarking what different sports provide in support for different roles. Ms Bissett was supportive of the Netball request and the reality of limited space on campus needing to support clubs training off campus, and to continue to work with clubs to make any savings where possible. Mr Owen was supportive of request, suggesting it would be good to publicise what % of funding clubs are contributing towards areas such as external venue hire.

Resolution

The CAG supported the request.

2.2.2 Cycling Club Request

Mr Warnecke explained the Cycling request as a hybrid administrator/coach role with aspiration to get participation back to pre-COVID levels. Generally, administrators would be co-funded however the Club was requesting this be waived for 2021-2022. Ms Honore believed the request aligned with the Strategic Plan. Ms Bissett suggested the Club needed a plan and KPIs to measure the impact of any new support, particularly the growth of membership and participation. Mr Warnecke suggested next steps would be to support the Club to develop a duty statement and to determine KPIs for 2021-2022.

Resolution

The CAG supported the request.

2.3 2020 Club Sport Awards

Mr Mullumby advised 2020 had been a challenging year for nominating awards with the majority of sports not being able to conduct in-person seasonal activities. Some clubs were able to run some activities, and in the spirit of the awards the recommendation was to award and recognise achievements even if an even playing field was not able to be compared across all clubs. The CAG supported the recommended winner for Club Individual of the Year, Club Team Performance of the Year, Club Coach of the Year, Club Personality of the Year. Mr Mullumby introduced the Club Innovation of the year and the group supported the recommended winner. Given the impact of COVID-19 in 2020, Mr Mullumby recommended that the criteria for the 2020 Club of the Year simply be determined by a club's online presence to engage with the University community. Mr Girdwood agreed with this concept for 2020 only.

Resolution

The CAG supported the award recommendations including the revised Club of the Year criteria for 2020 only.

3. MATTERS FOR NOTING

3.1 Sport Development Report

The Sport Development Manager presented the report.

Mr Girdwood advised that a few clubs had come to him in regards to the reduced Sports Centre hours and facility access on weekends. Mr Warnecke advised that arrangements had been made to ensure access required for competition and training was available and reiterated that some club

leaders had been inducted to supervise club training sessions where the Sports Centre was otherwise closed to the public. The Director or The Chair requested if any clubs came to Mr Girdwood with concerns that he should escalate them to the Clubs Coordinator.

Mr Girdwood commented that the Football Club had lost a volunteer who previously supported players to navigate the University’s personal accident insurance scheme, and asked if MU Sport could provide a liaison. Mr Mullumby advised that he would be that person and would assist the Club and any members with claims.

Resolution

The Sport Development Report was noted.

4. NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 25 August 2021

Mr Warnecke advised of the next meeting date. The Director or The Chair thanked everyone for their time.

Club Advisory Group

Action Sheet 1/2021 – 9 June 2021

Minute no.	Item Title	Action	Person/s Responsible	Current Status
1.3	Minutes from previous meeting	Provide unconfirmed minutes to the Club Advisory Group	Rod Warnecke	
2.1	Sporting Club Performance Strategy	Distribute Sporting Club Performance Strategy 2021 KPIs	Rod Warnecke	
2.2	Club Funding Requests	Provide the 2021 Club Funding Summary at the next meeting	Rod Warnecke	