

CLUB ADVISORY GROUP
Meeting 2/2021 – 15 September 2021

The minutes of meeting 2/2021 of the Club Advisory Group held on 15 September 2021 at 6.00pm via Zoom.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Ms Olivia Honore (Boat)

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.

1.2 Apologies

Ms Honore was listed as an apology.

1.3 Minutes from previous meeting

Mr Girdwood recalled at 1.3 the agreement was for minutes to be circulated within 10 days which was unclear in the previous minutes. Mr Warnecke apologised for not meeting the deadline with the previous minutes and agreed to aim to do so for future meetings. Ms Bissett suggested that MU Sport could communicate if minutes were to be delayed due to any unforeseen circumstance.

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

1.4 Business arising/action items form previous meeting

1.4.1 Provide unconfirmed minutes to the Club Advisory Group

Mr Warnecke confirmed action as discussed in item 1.3.

1.4.2 Distribute Sporting Club Performance Strategy 2021 KPIs

Mr Warnecke advised this was an agenda item for this meeting.

1.4.3 Provide the 2021 Club Funding Summary at the next meeting

Mr Warnecke advised this was also an agenda item for this meeting.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

2.1 Sport Leadership Awards

Mr Warnecke introduced the paper and spoke to the important role volunteers play in delivering opportunities to the University community. He also spoke about the gap that had been identified by MU Sport in the ability to recognise key volunteers that didn't meet the criteria of a Distinguished Service Award (DSA), namely the 10 years of service. Mr Warnecke subsequently introduced the Special Service Awards (SSA) which aim to recognise those who had made a significant contribution to sport at the University for at least three years. Mr Warnecke also introduced an additional set of sporting excellence awards, the brainchild of former Leadership Manager Bridgid Junot, which aimed to recognise individuals, teams or clubs who have demonstrated excellence in the award year across the areas of social justice, inclusion and innovation.

Ms Bissett questioned if the 10-year awards could be retrospective and if they would consider volunteerism in different roles throughout a nominee's time involved and possibly across more than one period. Mr Warnecke suggested the majority of nominees would likely have had multiple roles within clubs leading to various positive impacts and suggested that holding a single position without being able to demonstrate various positive impacts might not be significant on its own to deserve a DSA. The Chair agreed that recognition could consider the cumulative time of service by an individual, for example, service and impact across two periods of five years. Mr Girdwood commented that item 7.4 for nominations submitted by end of July may be too early as generally winter season clubs are not considering awards and reporting until the end of their seasons.

Mr Warnecke highlighted timing was important to firstly enable advisory groups to review nominations and secondly to allow time to invite awardees to the respective end of year event to recognise their contribution e.g. the Blues and Sports Awards or Sport Volunteer Celebration event in late November and early December each year. Delaying nominations until late August was agreed as reasonable. Ms Bissett added with long service awards you have already seen the bulk of what someone has done, and timing of the nomination is less important.

Ms Bissett advised that the Volleyball Club had been reviewing Life Membership nominations and had seen many alumni reengage with the club through various measures. The Chair recognised the role MU Sport could play in keeping a central repository of Life Members. Mr Warnecke advised that the first DSA was awarded in 1985 and this information could also be added to the awards guideline.

Resolution

The CAG endorsed the Sport Leadership Awards and Sport Excellence Awards.

2.2 2021 Club Performance KPIs

Mr Warnecke presented on the 2021 Club Performance KPIs which MU Sport had developed as aspirational, short-term targets to measure the implementation of the Sporting Club Performance Strategy previously endorsed by the CAG.

Mr Warnecke informed the CGA that the Strategy likely to be distributed to clubs in the next Club Operations Memo. Mr Warnecke outlined the key targets for 2021: engage with 5 clubs to develop pathway programs; support 3 clubs to develop an academy program; support 3 clubs to establish scholarships; establish base-line student-athlete numbers in HP/Senior club teams; deliver 1 coaching workshop/seminar; and develop a club HR and payroll service. Mr Warnecke added that COVID-19 had provided some challenges in progressing certain targets, and that as a result, some targets would likely be expanded into 2022. Ms Bissett suggested where possible it would be good to leverage the University's academic arms for workshops and seminars in the support of coaching and administrative support. Mr Warnecke asked the CAG for their feedback on delivering a workshop on mental health for coaches and other key club personnel and it was agreed this would be both timely and worthwhile. Mr Owen asked what the plan for reporting against the KPIs would be. Mr Warnecke indicated he would report on the KPIs to the CAG at its final meeting of the year along with the suggested 2022 KPIs. The Chair added that not as many discussions around these targets had been had to date and further issues may emerge which could impact and inform future KPIs. Ms Bissett agreed understanding what the baseline is and what clubs are already doing will play a large role. The Chair agreed and suggested there may not be a one size fits all for clubs and they may have varying capacity and willingness to develop relevant programs.

Resolution

The CAG supported the Club Performance KPIs.

Action

Report on the 2021 Club Performance KPIs and proposed 2022 KPIs at the next CAG meeting.

3. MATTERS FOR NOTING

3.1 International Sporting Opportunities Principles

Mr Warnecke noted the amended International Sporting Opportunities Principles following the previous suggestion by Ms Bissett to include information on opportunities to host International visitors. Mr Warnecke noted that the principles for hosting and travelling were the same in that both requests would come through to MU Sport for consideration.

Resolution

The CAG noted the amended International Sporting Opportunities Principles.

3.2 2021 Club Funding Summary

Mr Warnecke noted the 2021 Club Funding Summary was provided for information following discussion at the last meeting where it was confirmed that 2021 funding had returned to pre-COVID-19 (2019) levels plus an increase to account for CPI. Mr Warnecke noted that club funding proposed 2022, including any new club proposals, would be tabled for discussion at the final meeting of the year for the CAG's recommendation. Mr Girdwood appreciated the one-page summary which covered a lot of information and suggested it

would also ideally include membership information, club contributions to amounts and comparison to previous years. Mr Warnecke recognised that some funding anomalies remained, possibly around the support for external venue hire, and advised that MU Sport would continue to work with clubs to identify any inequities.

Ms Bissett asked how clubs had managed the impacts of COVID-19. The Chair said that following the misappropriation of funds by a former club office bearer, MU Sport had instigated a club financial health check with all clubs, and this indicated that the majority were in a relatively good financial position and that the organisation was working with a small number to help them better manage their finances. He also added that the intent was to work with clubs to ensure they are solvent and make sure their financial procedures were robust and that MU Sport would meet regularly with clubs that needed additional support. Ms Bissett suggested with modern technology a lot of risk could be reduced with the limitation of cash handling. Discussion from a recent Club Network Meeting where winter seasonal clubs were grappling with whether or not to provide a part-refund due to their shortened competitions was also highlighted.

Resolution

The CAG noted the 2021 Club Funding Summary.

3.3 Sport Development Report

Mr Warnecke presented the Sport Development Report. He highlighted the development and piloting of two Club Network Meetings and the aim to expand for all clubs whereby those with similar issues could be easily engaged to discuss and learn from one another. Ms Bissett noted the importance of having appropriate channels for complaints in reference to the club member incident in the report. Mr Owen highlighted resources around clubs developing Member Protection Information Officers. Mr Warnecke added there is more work to do to educate clubs and club members on the frameworks MU Sport and the University currently have in place. The Chair noted that MU Sport was cognizant of the importance of making resources, such as the MU Sport website, being a platform where this type of information should live for ease of access for both clubs and club members.

Mr Warnecke noted MU Sport's decision to sign up to the 'Love the Game' initiative and its gambling awareness campaign. Mr Owen said the Soccer Club had been involved for a few years and Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation had been good at providing support.

Mr Warnecke mentioned the recent update sent out to clubs about the recent announcement by the University that students would not be returning to campus for Semester 2 classes due to the ongoing restrictions due to COVID-19. Mr Warnecke added there was a strong appetite for a focused reengagement of students on campus for Semester 1 2022. Mr Warnecke also noted the current position of the University was to not mandate vaccinations at this stage, but rather to strongly encourage students and staff, and by extension members of the University community, to get vaccinated. The Chair added the importance of avoiding to attempt to restrict access for any students or staff to University facilities by clubs mandating vaccination. Mr Owen asked if there were any future plans for

more activities to reengage students on campus. The Chair advised he had recently presented to the Board and there is a focus to ensure sport is front and centre in the University's mind with the return of students and staff to campus. The Chair also added the intention to continue dialogue with the City of Melbourne for the access to council spaces. Mr Necki noted that a return to campus may actually result in a smaller community and it would be important to have more cross-connection and promotion between clubs to maximise participation. He also added that new members often mentioned a lack of knowledge of club existence, hence there being a promotional gap. The Chair agreed and advised that MU Sport would be advocating for the University to assist more in the promotion of sport, recreation and fitness opportunities on campus as part of this reengagement. Mr Necki added that a landing page for upcoming opportunities and events for all skill levels would be a beneficial promotional tool.

Resolution

The Sport Development Report was noted.

4. NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 17 November 2021

Mr Warnecke noted the next meeting date. The Chair thanked everyone for their time.

Action Sheet 2/2021

Minute no.	Item Title	Action	Person/s Responsible	Current Status
2.2	Club Performance KPIs	Report on the 2021 Club Performance KPIs and proposed 2022 KPIs at the next CAG meeting.	Rod Warnecke	