

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY COMPETITIVE CLUB FORUM

28 November 2019

The notes of the Melbourne University Sport Competitive Club Forum held on Thursday 28 November 2019 at 6.30pm in Social Space A.

PRESENT:

Mr Tim Lee (Director)
Mr Rod Warnecke (Sport Development Manager)
Mr Stan Dali (Club Project Officer)
Mr Gary Ryan (Facilitator, Organisations That Matter)

APOLOGIES:

Mr Jason Tang (Badminton)
Mr Jason Kotchoff (Basketball)
Ms Katie Saliba (Cheerleading)
Mr David Randall (Cycling)
Mr Aaron McNaughton (Gridrion)
Ms Judy Nash (Netball)
Mr Nathan van der Heiden (Table Tennis)
Ms Jodi Kelly (Touch)
Mr Matthew Keen (Water Polo)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Hamish Beaumont (Athletics)
Mr Irfan Fadhiel (Baseball)
Mr Dan Wallace (Boat)
Ms Olivia Honore (Boat)
Ms Phoebe Georgakas (Boat)
Mr Jean-Luke Desmarais (Cricket)
Mr Zijing Chu (Dragon Boat)
Ms Stefanie Natascha Voelker (Dragon Boat)
Mr Sabastian Wakim (Dragon Boat)
Ms Lili Pan (Fencing)
Mr Andrew Donald (Football)
Ms Maddie Sheedy (Football)
Mr Kerry Hwang (Futsal)
Mr Rizwan Siddique Rafi (Handball)
Mr Beyrem Jouini (Handball)
Mr James Stewart (Hockey)
Mr Conor Bradley (Lacrosse)
Mr Nick Anthony (Lacrosse)
Ms Lindy Murphy (Netball)
Ms Andrea Urive (Quidditch)
Mr Adrian Garvey (Rugby)

Mr Jason Jones (Rugby)
Mr Michael Owen (Soccer)
Ms Katherine Gourley (Softball)
Ms Tayla Fordham (Softball)
Mr Lucas Bediaga (Squash)
Ms Danielle Crosswell (Touch)
Mr Gus Cirillo (Volleyball)
Mr Tony Williams (Volleyball)
Mr David Jame (Weightlifting and Powerlifting)

1. WELCOME FROM MU SPORT BOARD

Tim Lee took the Chair and welcomed all present. The Chair outlined that the Club Forums is an opportunity to discuss major club issues and the strategic direction of sport at the University. The Chair emphasised the interactive nature of the workshop and encouraged all present to participate.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING

2. PERFORMANCE AND THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SPORT WORKSHOP

The Chair introduce Performance as one of the three pillars contained in the Strategic Plan for Sport. The Chair advised one of the three actions underpinning the performance pillar is to 'Ensure that the sporting clubs are the first choice of our student-athletes with quality coaching, professional management administration, athlete development and student recruitment'. The Chair then welcomed Mr. Gary Ryan to facilitate a workshop on this topic.

Mr Gary Ryan introduced the Forum purpose to engage competitive clubs in discussion to identify strategies to increase the number and percentage of students competing at all levels and increase the performance of competitive clubs.

Mr Ryan then opened to the attendees on their tables to workshop current practices that are working well to recruit the best student athletes, and current challenges associated with recruiting the best student athletes. The responses can be found in Appendix 1. Emerging themes included the importance of putting the best foot forward on orientation club's day, and the importance of having a good club culture.

Mr Ryan then opened to the attendees on their tables to workshop current practices that are helping clubs to perform at their optimum (the highest, appropriate level for your club today, without placing a limit on what be possible over time), and current challenges associated with achieving optimal performance outcomes. The responses can be found in Appendix 1. The emerging themes included the importance of both attracting and retaining good quality coaches, and the import role facilities play in performance.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. David Jame (Weightlifting and Powerlifting) appreciated the current administration support, however suggested the next step for club growth for more administration support. Mr. Jame proposed the idea of having a combined administrator who could work across multiple club. Mr Rod Warnecke suggested additional administration support for clubs is being discussed.

7. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT FORUM

The next Forum will be the General Forum in May and details will be communicated to the Clubs.

8. FORUM CLOSED

The Chair thanks all for coming and said looking forward to seeing everyone at the Club Cocktail Evening. The Forum closed at 7.35pm.

ACTION ITEMS

Agenda Item	Item Title	Action	Person(s) Responsible
2	Performance and the Strategic Plan for Sport Workshop	Collate and share themes with competitive clubs	Tom Mullumby, Clubs Coordinator
2	Performance and the Strategic Plan for Sport Workshop	Collate and share with Clubs Advisory Group	Tom Mullumby, Clubs Coordinator

APPENDIX 1 – WORKSHOP RESPONSES

Competitive Club Forum 28.11.2019 Table 1 Responses		
Attendees & Club	Practises Attracting best student athletes	Challenges to attracting best student athletes
Ms Andrea Uride (Quidditch) Ms Danielle Crosswell (Touch) Ms Katherine Gourley (Softball) Ms Tayla Fordham (Softball)	Clubs Day- Be nice- person to person contact	Loyalty to personal/current club
	Social media	Understanding of the sport
	Visibility and Training	Different sport Mechanics – hard to pick up
	Social Events	Not taken seriously – social vs games
	Coaching & Pathways	Balance btw high performance & development
		Not enough people to run come & try sessions
	Optimum Performance Practices	Optimum Performance Challenges
	Engagement at matches- helps involvement with community and retention at training	Smaller numbers in club means less interest
	Committee restructure – increased club vibe-people giving back	Need scale to be attractive
	Number and experience of coaches	

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Table 2 Responses

Attendees & Club	Practises Attracting best student athletes	Challenges to attracting best student athletes
Mr Gus Cirillo (Volleyball) Mr David Jame (Weightlifting and Powerlifting) Mr Andrew Donald (Football) Ms Maddie Sheedy (Football) Mr Irfan Fadhiel (Baseball)	Private School contacts / networks	Student athletes attending other unis didn't get in to Melb Uni on scores
	Culture /reputation High performance – high achievers in the squad Top level of performance	Returning to home clubs
	Age of Athletes	Lost equipment – wear and tear
	O week & Colleges	Travel – distance to club
	Intervarsity Coaches & top-quality equipment	Level of Competition
	Connecting with MU Sport	Accommodate volume of students -Admin-Coaching-Facilities
	Optimum Performance Practices	Optimum Performance Challenges
	Sponsorship of best athletes-club fees- competitions	Best players are international students-continuity of quality
	Coaches – high level program – high level athletes	Finding the talent
	Strategizing- well organised	Coaching retention – non playing coaches
	Collaboration with other clubs	Burnout – coaches – officials- admin
		Admin pressure -lack of volunteerism

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Table 3 Responses

Attendees & Club	Practises Attracting best student athletes	Challenges to attracting best student athletes
Mr Hamish Beaumont (Athletics) Ms Maddie Sheedy (Football) Mr Jean-Luke Desmarais (Cricket) Mr Kerry Hwang (Futsal) Mr Michael Owen (Soccer) Mr James Stewart (Hockey)	Conversion after contact	Existing Club Connections
	Quality Coaches	Facilities not up to standard, restrictive access
	Location facilities- oval	Stop paying athletes who compete at rival clubs
	EAP Social Vs Elite	Lack of influence at university entry
	Culture	Identifying talent -finding-sighting them - recruiting
	Publicity	No Top-level competition
	Optimum Performance Practices	Optimum Performance Challenges
	Large coaching team	Lack of Coaches
	Consistency in training – year to year-institutional knowledge	Lack of governing Body guidance
	Culture	Marketing tempo
Support from University	Facilities insufficient, Increasing costs	
Athlete support - internal	Capacity not as big as ambition	
Athlete focused philosophy	Admin compliance – burden on volunteers Lack of understanding of individual sports	

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Table 4 Responses

Attendees & Club	Practises Attracting best student athletes	Challenges to attracting best student athletes
Mr Conor Bradley (Lacrosse) Mr Lucas Bediaga (Squash) Mr Zijing Chu (Dragon Boat) Mr Sabastian Wakim (Dragon Boat) Mr Adrian Garvey (Rugby)	Being Welcoming	Best student athletes
	Come and tries	Unable to defer high level opportunity
	Have a program for multiple come and tries	Resources to manage high level players
	Modified/Social- lacrosse	No Local events- lots of international events
		Facilities
	Optimum Performance Practices	Optimum Performance Challenges
	High Profile Coach- outgoing -engaging-cooperation with other coaches	Facility Access
	Players attracted to coaches and management	Additional support for coach remuneration
	Athletes attracted to UNI Melb	Retention of good athletes
	Culture-the move from VU to Unimelb (Netball)	
	Behaviour	
	Success	

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Table 5 Responses

Attendees & Club	Practises Attracting best student athletes	Challenges to attracting best student athletes
Ms Stefanie Natascha Voelker (Dragon Boat) Ms Lili Pan (Fencing) Mr Dan Wallace (Boat) Ms Olivia Honore (Boat) Ms Phoebe Georgakas (Boat) Ms Lindy Murphy (Netball)	Scholarships, donations 10 Years ago First Year \$1000 grants	Timetable challenges - Exams
	Exterior fitness coaches	Support from Unimelb
	Resourcing payments – Self funded	Special consideration when representing the University
	Access to Sport Centre Facilities- group - social	
	Optimum Performance Practices	Optimum Performance Challenges
	High Quality Coaches, Support Services, Product	Facilities
	Consistency and stability	Communication
	Robust admin process	Identification of effectiveness
	Facilities and equipment functional Specialist conditioning – behaviour of coaches	Lack of competition opportunity
	Clear expectation of program - ALS	
	EAP helps train athletes when equipment is inadequate	