

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY CLUB FORUM

30 May 2019

The notes of the Melbourne University Sport Club Forum held on Thursday 30 May 2019 at 6.00pm in Social Space A.

PRESENT:

Professor Richard James (Chair)
Mr Tim Lee (Director)
Mr Rod Warnecke (Sport Development Manager)
Ms Bridgid Junot (Leadership Manager)
Mr Tom Mullumby (Clubs Coordinator)
Mr Eugene Toh (Executive Support Officer)

APOLOGIES:

Mr Aaron McNaughton – Gridiron
Mr Keven Ren – Inline Skating

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Jessie Wang – Rhee Taekwondo
Ms Emily Chowne – Quidditch
Ms Courtney Farley – Gridiron
Mr Andrew Donald – Football Club
Ms Katherine Gourley – Softball
Mr Irfan Fadhiel – Baseball
Mr James Stewart – Hockey
Mr Jason Kotchoff – Basketball
Mr Steven Birkett – Mountaineering
Mr Michael Owen – Soccer
Ms Kerry Hwang – Futsal
Mr Hamish Beaumont – Athletics
Mr Jean-Luke Desmaris – Cricket
Mr Connor Bradley – Lacrosse
Mr Sean O'Donnell – Rugby
Ms Vivian Kexin Zhang – Karate
Mr Ezekiel Tan Weightlifting and Powerlifting
Mr Bob Girdwood - Football
Mr Peter Wardrop - Waterski and Wakeboard
Mr Daniel Wallace - Boat Club
Mr Liam Thomas - Ski
Mr Maciej Necki - Underwater
Mr Anton Jermaloff - Mountaineering
Ms Andrea McWhinney - Dance Sport
Ms Isabella Luk - Taekwondo WTF
Ms Madeleine Sheedy - Football
Ms Nhu Duong - Rhee Taekwondo

Ms Lindy Murphy - Netball
Mr Mitchell Ryan - Ultimate
Mr Joseph Bloom - Quidditch
Ms Nicky Lieu - Kendo
Mr Chang Hui Wang - Wushu
Mr Eu Shen Ong - Wushu
Mr Thao Phan - Water Polo
Mr Matthew Littleson - Aikido
Ms Stephanie Seeger - Softball
Mr Jason Tang - Badminton
Ms Anna Leonedas - Soccer
Ms Judy Nash - Netball

1. WELCOME FROM MU SPORT BOARD

Professor Richard James 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. DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

The Director welcomed Club Presidents, Vice-Presidents and all other club representatives. Mr Lee also acknowledged the traditional owners of this land, the Wurundjeri people, and recognised the efforts of the University and MU Sport over the course of National Reconciliation Week. The 2018 Highlights video was presented to the group.

The Director outlined the broad strategic opportunities for the organisation with the upcoming release of the University's new Strategic Plan and Estates Plan. There is an opportunity to garner support for sport in the areas of student experience and sporting capital projects.

Aligned with the Estates Plan, MU Sport is also undertaking a review of sporting facilities to determine the current and future needs for all programs and for the clubs. Consultation will take place with the clubs to identify a range of issues including the adequacy of facilities and how we can improve our amenities and long-term access.

2020 will be the 150th Anniversary of varsity sport. MU Sport has identified a group of distinguished sporting alumni who will help plan events and celebrations recognising the anniversary. This is an opportunity to engage with the alumni who have represented the University and to also demonstrate the link between sport and a sense of belonging.

The Director concluded by describing the specific club support proposals which the organisation is currently working on. These include: student recruitment, safety

management plans, TRIP management System and HR and Financial Services Support.

3. CLUB PRESENTATION – PRESENTING TO THE BOARD; A RUGBY CLUB PERSPECTIVE

Mr Sean O’Donnell, Rugby Club President, presented their experience on sharing their strategic vision to the MU Sport Board.

Mr O’Donnell began by describing the broad purposes of the Club, mainly, to provide an opportunity for players to compete at the highest levels and to make life-long friends. For many, the Club’s participation activities act as a pathway for players to compete at an amateur level and to eventually progress to excellence and the professional scene. Thus, the club needs to appeal to players of all levels and those with a diverse range of backgrounds. This involves creating clear behavioural standards that emphasise the club as a welcoming family which takes care of each other on and off the field.

Prior to presenting to the Board, the Rugby club identified several opportunities in which it needed support. From an engagement perspective, MU Sport and the University of Melbourne are the major stakeholders the club interacts with on a daily basis. As the club heavily relies on the organisation for usage of their facilities and grounds, significant help may be needed in the future. Developing a relationship with the MU Sport board would be incredibly useful should the club need to justify any support required. Mr O’Donnell also used the opportunity to present to the Board to sharpen the club’s strategic plan – *Back in Black (and Blue) Strategy 2021*.

4. CLUB SUPPORT

Mr Warnecke discussed the background of the Sports and Clubs Working Group. The Working Group formed in 2018 and was established to review historical club support; operating models’ general principles of support; and alignment with the Strategic Plan for Sport. Members of the group were selected from the competitive, instructional and recreational clubs.

The key recommendation which arose from the group was to establish a Club Advisory Group (CAG) to provide greater equity, transparency and an independent decision-making process for club support and policy changes that may impact on club operations. The CAG TOR are still in development and feedback is being sought from internal and external stakeholders.

The next step will be to develop a policy framework which will be distributed to clubs for feedback. The CAG will be confirmed and a support framework endorsed by the MU Sport Board before meetings commence. Mr Warnecke opened the floor for questions. It was asked whether dates have been set for the CAG milestones. Tentative dates have been determined and clubs will be notified of the process.

5. LGBTQIA+ INCLUSION IN SPORT

The Chair introduced Mr Chris Bunting, Pride and Diversity Co-ordinator. Mr Bunting described his role at the organisation and played the 2018 Pride in Sport video.

The Leadership team is currently in the final stages of developing the LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Policy. Using the four P's of inclusion (Programs & Promotion, Partnerships and Policy), the policy will be embedded in MU Sport activity - from the way fitness services are delivered, all the way through to club activity.

Mr Bunting described the consultation process and the steps involved in creating the policy so far. Internal feedback has been acquired from the organisation and the draft document was recently presented to the MU Sport Board. Affiliated club and stakeholders are now being sought for feedback. The policy was distributed to Clubs earlier this week.

The document deals with two main areas: discrimination and gender affirming practices in sport. Applying rules and guidelines to sporting club participation can often be a difficult task. For example, clubs which play in external competitions may need to apply two different policies. Nevertheless, the inclusion policy makes it clear where and what MU Sport stands for.

When in need, clubs should not hesitate to contact Mr Bunting as he is a source for help and information in this area. Mr Bunting concluded the session with the workshop section of his presentation, dealing with hypothetical sporting situations involving an element of discrimination. Responses to the scenarios were developed by Club Forum members and presented to the group.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT FORUM

Recreational Club Forum - Thursday 1 August

Instructional Club Forum – Thursday 12 September

Competitive Club Forum – Thursday 10 October

8. FORUM CLOSED

The Forum closed at 7.40pm.

ACTION ITEMS

Agenda Item	Item Title	Action	Person(s) Responsible
4	Club Support	Next steps timeline distributed to the group.	Tom Mullumby, Clubs Co-ordinator