

**MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT BOARD**

**MEETING 3/2019 – 27 June 2019**

The minutes of meeting 3/2019 of the Melbourne University Sport Board held on Thursday 27 June at 9:30am in the Boardroom, Nona Lee Sports Centre.

**PRESENT:**

Professor James Angus (Chair)  
Professor Richard James  
Mr Shawn Ingle  
Ms Anna Traill  
Ms Lara McKay

**APOLOGIES:**

Ms Alex Lawlor  
Ms Joanna Weston  
Mr James Marburg

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms Kat Gourley for item 1.3 (President, Softball Club)  
Mr Tim Lee (Director)  
Mr Jean-Luc Garlick  
Mr Rod Warnecke  
Ms Bridgid Junot  
Mr Eugene Toh (minute taker)

**1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Welcome**

The Chair welcomed all present and noted Ms McKay's first meeting as a Board member. The Board introduced themselves and shared their affiliation with Sport.

**1.2 Apologies**

Ms Lawlor, Ms Weston and Mr Marburg were listed as apologies.

**1.3 Club Presentation – Softball Club**

Mr Warnecke introduced Ms Kat Gourley, President of the Softball Club.

Ms Gourley described the history of the club and shared its goals of being both a social and competitive group for players of all ages and experience levels. A significant number of members are junior participants as MUSC is one of the few clubs offering competitions for high school students to compete during winter. A number of these players had been selected to represent the club in state and national championship competitions.

Ms Gourley presented the club finances noting that the club had performed well in 2019 based on its rapid expansion. However, as they were currently seeking reaffiliation with Softball Victoria (requiring fees) next year's financial performance may be reduced. Beyond 2020, the club strategy would focus on membership, finances and competition. The major challenges facing the club included the recruitment and retention of experienced players, coaches and managers, suitable training facilities and fundraising opportunities.

The Director commended the efforts of the Softball Club. He noted that significant progress had been made since 2010 and that the values of the club were consistent with the greater organisation. The Chair asked if the club was aware of the risk issues associated with junior member participation. The contracts and paperwork linked with junior participation were dealt with by the coaches, however the club executive group would work to ensure all stakeholders were aware of any issues.

Ms McKay asked the Board how Advancement could be captured within Sport. The Director noted the work in progress for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sport project and how the Softball club would be engaged in the process. Ms Gourley had been working on obtaining accurate alumni information, however this had been difficult due to the rapid expansion of the club since 2010.

Ms Traill asked whether the club had engaged with college softball in recruiting members. This was confirmed - club members referee the college games, however, as club's train on the same night as college events, recruitment has been difficult.

The Chair thanked Ms Gourley for her passionate presentation and encouraged further partnership with MU Sport.

#### **Resolution**

*The Board noted the Softball Club presentation.*

Ms Gourley left the meeting at 10:00am.

#### **1.4 Minutes from previous meeting**

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

#### **1.5 Confirmation of Circular Resolutions**

There were no circular resolutions to confirm.

#### **1.6 Business Arising/Action Item Updates**

There were no business arising/action item updates.

### **2. MATTERS FOR DECISION**

There were no matters for decision.

### **3. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1 Finance Strategy**

Mr Garlick presented the (updated) Finance Strategy and noted that the presentation would focus on the key points underpinning the strategy including forecast trends and future options.

Each year the budget is prepared focusing on increasing student participation by reducing or maintaining cost to students whilst also ensuring the long-term viability of sport by adopting a not-for-loss model across all areas. It was worth noting that since 2013, unique participation had increased by 39% against a growth of 29% across University student numbers thus reflecting a successful result.

The significant issues impacting the organisation's financial position included the new EBA which had increased costs to operate by approximately \$118,000. The EBA also provided for a base wage which was 30% higher than the equivalent industry award. Sport also incurred most of the costs for building maintenance, minor and major capital works, utilities and cleaning.

Forecast income demonstrated the impact of the removal of the SSAF Grant scheme with a drop in SSAF funding of \$611,000 in 2022. This would impact on service and program delivery

if the SSAF, University or external funds was not increased. Support for clubs and leadership programs had increased substantially in comparison to back of house services and administration.

The Chair noted that many issues such as maintenance, capital works, utilities and cleaning were unique as compared to other University departments. The Chair asked how the NADS (Non-Academic Departments) review process would work through the University. Mr Garlick outlined that the organisation was currently working with University Services to determine these issues and what resources could be utilized.

Professor James confirmed that the NADS review would examine all former semi-autonomous bodies to check their alignment with the Melbourne Operating Model. This is an opportunity to create clarity around which operational processes could roll into the University systems and which could remain separate.

The Director noted that the 2020 budget would be developed in line with the strategy and be presented at the next meeting.

#### **Resolution**

*The Board endorsed the Finance Strategy.*

### **3.2 Sporting Blues**

Mr Warnecke presented on the amendments to the Sporting Blues and thanked Mr Lutwyche, Sport Performance Coordinator, for preparing the briefing paper. Mr Warnecke gave a brief summary of the history of Sporting Blues. Due to the expansion of intervarsity competitions to include more domestic and international competitions, there had been several proposed changes to the criteria of awarding a Sporting Blue. These involved changes to the recognised competitions, allowing for students to compete and be awarded sporting blues.

Mr Warnecke noted that the consideration and deliberations of the Blues Advisory Group (BAG) would remain unchanged and that they would simply have a wider set of competitions from which to consider nominations. Other changes also included the adjudication of the Male and Female Athletes of the year being decided by the BAG instead of MU Sport staff, facilitating a more transparent process.

With the organisation recently taking responsibility for awarding Blues instead of the Sports Association, Sport was committed to wide-ranging stakeholder consultation in the proposal to change the awarding of Sporting Blues. The discussion paper would be distributed to clubs for feedback, posted on the website and included in the monthly newsletter with an invitation for feedback on the suggested changes. All feedback would be presented to the BAG for final recommendation before the Terms of Reference were brought back to the Board for endorsement. The Chair suggested that the Director not sit on the Blues Appeal Panel.

Ms McKay asked whether this would affect the number of Sporting Blues awards presented. Mr Warnecke responded that the number may increase however due to the increasing level of competition faced domestically and overseas, the performance of athletes would remain high. The Director noted the value of the awards and that the organisation had received numerous requests from past recipients and the families of recipients seeking out their lost Blues.

Mr Ingle queried how international competitions are managed with the expansion of Intervarsity sport. Most requests for athletes to compete are passed by International Relations and then considered by the organisation.

**Resolution**

*The Board endorsed the changes to the awarding of a Sporting Blues and noted the stakeholder engagement plan.*

**4. MATTERS FOR NOTING**

**4.1 Director's Report**

The Director presented the Director's Report and highlighted the organisation's response to the student enhancement project and the proposal to improve transition and orientation activities and overall communication with students, and the appointment of a DVC Student Life.

The Director provided an update on the 150<sup>th</sup> Intervarsity Anniversary. The project group and plan had been established. Several sport alumni had confirmed their involvement in the project and the Director noted that an event plan would be distributed to the Board at the next meeting.

The Strategic Tasks document was shared with the Board with a list of targets and KPIs for 2019.

The Director highlighted the recent media report on an online forum listing sites at the University as locations for inappropriate behaviour toward women. Although the Beaurepaire Centre was mentioned as a possible site, the organisation was not aware of any reported incidents and would continue to monitor the situation.

The Chair asked for an update on the Club Service Agreements. The organisation is currently working with the Boat, Football, Hockey and Mountaineering Clubs to clarify terms in the agreement specific to their sport.

**Resolution**

*The Board noted the Director's Report.*

**4.2 Finance Report**

Mr Garlick presented the Finance Report. The SSAF income accrued since last year explained why the organisation had such a large cash at bank figure. This income would be accrued over the next two years and the cash at bank figure would slightly decline.

The Director referred the Board to the Capital Funds report and advised that the Buxton Family had committed to a second scholarship and that we would shortly announce the Jopling Family Scholarship which would be the most generous rowing scholarship in Australia.

**Resolution**

*The Board noted the Finance report*

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

**6. MEETING FINALISATION**

**6.1 Meeting Close**

The Chair asked staff and observers to excuse themselves with the remainder of the Board staying for the in-camera session.

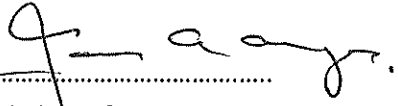
The meeting closed at 11:00am.

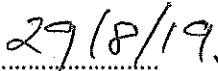
**6.2 Next Meeting**

Next meeting on Thursday 22 August at 6.00pm

7. IN CAMERA SESSION

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:

  
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Chair Professor James Angus

  
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Date