

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING 2/2021 – 6 May 2021

The minutes of meeting 2/2021 of the Melbourne University Sport (MU Sport) Advisory Board held on Thursday 6 May at 9:30am in Social Space A, Nona Lee Sports Centre and via zoom.

PRESENT:

Professor James Angus (Chair)
Professor Sarah Wilson via zoom
Professor Sarah Biddulph via zoom
Professor Richard James
Ms Lara McKay
Mr James Marburg
Ms Joanna Weston via zoom
Mr Shawn Ingle
Mr Michael Dardis
Mr Tim Lee (Director)

APOLOGIES:

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Ian Marshman (incoming Chair)
Mr Jean-Luc Garlick (Secretary)
Mrs Julie Caundle (minute taker)
Mr Eugene Toh
Mr Alex Affleck
Mr Tom Andronas for item 1.3
Mr Rod Warnecke for item 1.3

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present in and in particular Professor Sarah Wilson the recently appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Life) for her first meeting and Mr Ian Marshman as the incoming chair who was attending as an observer. The Chair noted that this would be the last meeting for Mr Marburg and himself.

1.2 Apologies

No apologies were listed.

1.3 Club Presentation – MU Baseball

Mr Andronas, President of the Baseball Club, outlined the current position and performance of the club, the club strategic plan, including recent initiatives to engage the alumni and improve player development. Issues also raised were a reduction in student recruits from overseas, the impact of membership fees on student participation and if the club was perceived as a performance club. The Chair thanked Mr Andronas for his presentation and expressed his appreciation for the apparent alignment of the club objectives with that of the University and MU Sport.

Mr Andronas and Mr Warnecke left the meeting at 10.05am

1.4 Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

1.5 Business Arising/Action Item Updates

There was no business arising/action item updates.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

2.1 2021 Strategic Tasks and KPIs

The Director outlined the Strategic Tasks and associated targets for this year.

The immediate challenge was to ensure the return of all programs and services during 2021. The organization had been working diligently to manage the complex task of resuming activity safely since November last year often preceding the return of other activities on campus. The initial target of 70% (against 2019 levels) for student and staff participation set late last year was now going to be difficult to achieve due to slower than expected return of students and staff to campus. Professor Wilson noted that the University had set a target of 90% of undergraduate classes back on campus for second semester and that this would include a plan to target second year students that were not able to attend last year.

The review of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) was set to take place this year and we will engage in the review by demonstrating how sport supports the University's strategic goals, in particular the Student Life Strategy, highlighting the impact of sport on the student and staff experience. This will include supporting the University's Peer Mentor Program involving over 1,000 mentors and 10,000 mentees (first year students).

The celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Intervarsity that was to be celebrated in 2020, before the Pandemic set in, has been deferred to this year to seek to engage with the almost 5,000 alumni who have represented the University over the last 50 years and encourage them to support sport. This will include a range of activities including a major event that we can then identify 200 prospects with at least 20 as prospective major donors. The donor target has been set with Advancement.

The Director made a commitment to the clubs early in the first lock down last year that we would continue to maintain our support to the clubs and their volunteers so that they were able to emerge from the lock down strongly. This commitment had been met initially with the level of financial support provided this year remaining at previous levels but support services such as HR and Finance would also be provided to relieve the burden on volunteers.

A review the *Sport Capital Plan* adopted in 2012 would proceed to ensure alignment with the intent of the University's Estate Plan. An audit would be conducted of all sporting infrastructure and a range of shovel ready projects developed for consideration.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the 2021 Strategic Tasks and KPIs.

2.2 Sport Participation Strategy

Mr Affleck presented the Sport Participation Strategy proposal.

Participation is one of three pillars in the *Strategic Plan for Sport* to ensure that the organisation is providing the University community opportunities to engage in regular physical activity in a diverse range of activities that are safe, respectful, and inclusive.

The proposal is to develop a longer-term plan with our stakeholders to guide decision making in the future.

Participation had increased from between 5% and 14% a year since 2010 to 2019. Engagement with clubs and fitness services made up the largest number of participant opportunities but more recently the increase had been due to better engagement with previously underrepresented groups with a range of targeted programs. This included the Indigenous Sport, Water Safety and the Pride in Sport Programs.

The stakeholder consultation plan was outlined including the *Student Wellbeing Survey* that would focus on identifying any significant changes in behavior and attitudes to regular physical activity as a result of the Pandemic to inform the strategy.

Mr Ingle asked about international students located overseas and improving online opportunities. Mr Affleck responded that this would be considered as part of the strategy. Professor James suggested that sport and recreation activities are an attraction for students and staff to return to campus that should be emphasized in the strategy.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the Sport Participation Strategy Proposal.

2.3 Advisory Board Briefing

The Director outlined significant current issues and the recent progress of strategic tasks which were covered in greater detail in his report.

The University is now largely open for business however a significant number of students and staff have not returned despite the recent encouragement of the VC in his email to staff. Pleasingly we are aligned with the VC's message as we have been operating since November last year.

Unique visitors and overall participation has not reached the forecasts made in late 2020 as we had assumed a greater number of students and staff returning to campus. The students and staff have been trickling back during semester and as a result we have adjusted our approach to provide ongoing orientation tours and free passes for new arrivals.

There has been ongoing contact with the club office bearers to determine how they are tracking and if they need any additional support. The competitive clubs appear to have recovered with the number of teams equal to, and in some cases exceeding 2019 levels. However, instructional and recreational clubs are reporting a drop in membership of around 50% as they are more reliant on students being on campus. These clubs are scaling back their trips and activities for first semester and are planning to bounce back if the numbers of students on campus improves during semester two.

Continuing travel restrictions are making it difficult for many of our elite student athletes to attend international competitions, however, most of the national championships and the professional sporting competitions are likely to proceed. Interestingly a higher proportion of student-athletes undertook summer subjects this year. There are currently 292 student-athletes receiving some level of support including 20 student-athletes receiving financial support from our scholarship program including some that are already selected for the Olympic and Para Olympic teams.

Most staff in operational roles have been back on campus since November but many other staff continue to work from home at least some of the time. The staff will start to increase their presence on campus over the next 4 weeks in line with the University's working from home policy and our operational requirements.

The University is in the final stages of the Pandemic Reset Program to manage the financial impact of COVID-19 which will have implications for the many University services that we rely on including Finance, HR, OHS, Facilities and IT.

Short videos of the University Basketball League (UBL) highlights, the ANZAC commemoration and the unfurling of the 2019 VAFA Premier Division flag by the Uni Blues were presented and wrap up of the Aon 7's Women competition and the commencement of the Big Blue against Monash were outlined.

Work will commence on the Oval Grandstand shortly.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the Advisory Board Briefing.

3. MATTERS FOR NOTING

3.1 Director's Report

The Director's Report was taken as noted.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the Director's Report.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

5. MEETING FINALISATION

5.1 Meeting Close

The Chair acknowledged Mr Marburg for his commitment to the Advisory Board over the past 6 years and presented him with a commemorative plaque. Mr Marburg thanked the Director and the Chair and noted the professionalism with which the Advisory Board conducted itself as a result of the support of the staff. The Director suggested that this was also a credit to the Executive Support Officer Mr Toh but unfortunately this will be his last meeting as he was moving to another more senior position within the University.

The Chair also thanked Mrs Caundle and the Director for their assistance and that it had been a pleasure and an honor to serve and that he was confident that the organization is in good hands with the incoming Chair, Mr Marshman.

The Director also presented the Chair with a plaque and thanked him for his great support and very astute leadership. The VC is hosting a farewell dinner but unfortunately not all Advisory Board could be included due to the restrictions on the venue size. Instead, the Advisory Board would be invited to the Volunteer Function at the end of the year at which time the Chair would be publicly recognized.

Meeting closed at 11.00am.

5.2 Next Meeting

Next meeting on Thursday 24 June 2021 at 9:30am – 11:00am.

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Marshman', written over a dotted line.

Chair Mr Ian Marshman

2 August 2021

Date

**MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD
ACTION SHEET 2/2021 – 6 May 2021**

No Actions listed.