

## MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD

### MEETING 4/2021 – 9 September 2021

The minutes of meeting 4/2021 of the Melbourne University Sport (MU Sport) Advisory Board held on Thursday 9 September at 9:30am via zoom.

#### PRESENT:

Mr Ian Marshman (Chair)  
Professor Sarah Wilson  
Professor Sarah Biddulph  
Professor Richard James  
Mr Paul Holland  
Ms Joanna Weston  
Mr Shawn Ingle  
Mr Michael Dardis  
Ms Lara McKay  
Mr Tim Lee (Director)

#### APOLOGIES:

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Jean-Luc Garlick (Secretary)  
Mrs Julie Caundle  
Ms Michelle Edwards (Minute taker)  
Mr Ken Barton  
Mr Rod Warnecke for item 1.3  
Mr Steven (Phong) Nguyen for item 1.3

## 1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present and noted that Mr Paul Holland would be joining the meeting late due to prior University commitments. It was noted that there was a late change to the sequence of the agenda. The Director introduced Mr Ken Barton, Facility Operations Manager, and Ms Michelle Edwards, Executive Support Officer, both of whom were attending their first Advisory Board meeting.

### 1.2 Apologies

No apologies were listed.

### 1.3 Club Presentation – MU Table Tennis

The Chair welcomed the Table Tennis Club, and Mr Warnecke introduced Mr Nguyen, Club Secretary to present. Mr Nguyen outlined how the club was managed, current challenges (member participation and gender balance), current strategies for player retention and development and future goals.

The Chair thanked Mr Nguyen for the presentation and leadership during this pandemic. There was discussion around participation, membership payments and registration requirements, and forecasting the club structure and opportunities for 2022.

Mr Nguyen and Mr Warnecke left the meeting at 9.50am.

#### **1.4 Minutes from the previous**

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

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

As part of the University's Budget Planning process, MU Sport provided an indicative budget submission in August for 2022. Unfortunately, we did not have the information in time to present at the previous Board meeting and therefore asked that the Board note the emailed submission for the 2022 Indicative Budget. This submission was distributed to the Board on 10 August and the motion was confirmed by the majority of members.

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

There were no business arising/action item updates.

## **2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **2.1 Return to Campus Planning 2022**

The Director presented on the concept that emerged from a recent meeting with the Chair after the University announced that students would not be returning to campus for second semester. This resulted in a late change to the agenda as the proposal provides useful background for both the 2022 budget and the capital plan presentations that are to follow.

The concept is to demonstrate to the University how sport, recreation and fitness activities are fundamental to rebuilding student and staff engagement aligned with the University's return to campus planning.

The objective is to provide additional opportunities for all students and staff to be active and connected on campus. orientating students across three years, 2020 to 2022, who have not spent any time on campus. The proposal will include strategies to incentivising students by providing a discount on the cost of activities and working with our clubs and other stakeholders to provide targeted programs that address the unique issues for students not participating at the University.

The proposal requires the support of the University so we will continue to build a case aligned with the University's Student Mental Health Framework and equity and inclusion strategies. The support required includes additional funds to come either from our surplus and additional financial support, greater prominence on the University website and communication channels and support for access to additional space on campus.

The Chair thanked the Director for the presentation and opened the floor to questions and feedback. Professor Wilson noted that the University is confident that sport, recreation and fitness activities will encourage students and staff to return to campus and it was likely that there will be funding available. Professor James suggested this was a wonderful gift to returning and new students to welcome them back to campus.

Professor Wilson suggested that some additional funding may be available from the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) funds and directly from the University via Discover UniMelb and other funding schemes. It was also noted the updated construction delivery

timeline and the planned priority of works on specific buildings that it was possible that some space would be repurposed in 2022.

The Chair stated that the proposal has the support of the Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board agreed to increase the length of the upcoming Strategic Planning Workshop by ½ hour.

#### **Resolution**

*The Advisory Board noted the Return to Campus Planning 2022.*

### **2.2 Sport Infrastructure Plan**

Facilities Operations Manager, Mr Barton, presented an update on the development of the Sports Infrastructure Plan (SIP) including the master list of Sport Capital Projects. The Board have previously endorsed a proposal in 2020 to update the initial sport capital plan to align with the recent development of the University's Estates Plan.

The Director and Mr Barton met recently with the Estates Plan Implementation Group to discuss the SIP but it was suggested that there may be some funding for immediate projects in 2022. As a consequence, a master project list has been prepared for consideration at the Board prior to presentation to the Estates Planning Group.

The Sport Capital Projects list is not a bid for funding but to demonstrate the extent of the University's sporting infrastructure requirements. The list comprises of 14 projects with an estimated value of \$66 million required from 2022 through to 2030 and beyond. However, three priority projects; the University Oval redevelopment, sports lighting upgrade, and Athletic Track and Hockey Pitch replacement would be submitted for support for development in 2022 as they were considered urgent and scoping work had been undertaken previously.

The Director outlined that the Board and MU Sport senior management would need to develop an advocacy strategy for future sport capital project bids. This will be included engaging Mr Paul Roberts, the lead consultant on the Estate Plan, as the consultant for the SIP to ensure that the plan aligns with the Estates Plan.

Professor Wilson noted that occupational health and safety issues were always an important consideration for capital submissions along with demonstrating how the project would contribute to the student experience. The University is also currently developing the Sustainability Plan and suggested a meeting with the project leaders.

#### **Resolution**

*The Advisory Board noted the Sport Infrastructure Plan update.*

### **2.3 2022 Advisory Board Budget**

General Manager Mr Garlick presented the 2022 Advisory Board Budget.

It was noted that the Department Budget approved by circular motion and submitted to University Finance but was the first step of the budget process.

The three-stage budget process (Department Budget, Advisory Board Budget and Comprehensive Budget) allows additional time to develop a more detailed and accurate comprehensive budget while meeting the University and Advisory Board reporting requirements. The Department Budget can be adjusted until the end of October noting MU Sport has provided top-level figures for income, expenditure and surplus result and those figures are not adjustable within the system. The management group would continue to work

on the detailed Comprehensive Budget, including income and expenditure for each program and service in line with the budget principles and Advisory Board Budget.

Some of the budget principles that were adjusted for the 2021 budget will remain for the 2022 budget due to the continuing uncertainty about income levels next year. The adjusted principles are:

- Programs and services to be reviewed but some may be scaled back or deferred
- Maintain or improve the support for clubs and club volunteers
- Reduce the level of contingency for the foreseeable future.

#### **Resolution**

*The Advisory Board noted the 2022 Budget.*

### **2.4 Advisory Board Update**

Director provided an update on current significant issues, progress of strategic tasks and risk management issues, as outlined in his report.

Adjustments have been made to our operations due to the extended lockdown including the closing of facilities and cancelling or suspending of programs, events, club competition and activities. The loss of income has been offset by a drop in expenditure and it is still anticipated that it will be an end of year breakeven result .

MU Sport recently signed on to Love the Game Sporting Club Program which is a Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation program to limit the exposure of young people to gambling promotion. This is aligned with our current practice, and the expectation of the University, not to receive sponsorship from gambling related activities given the harmful effects of problem gambling aligned with the Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Framework.

As previously reported, a student club member made a complaint in July alleging sexual harassment against the club coach, which has resulted in an independent investigation that is currently ongoing. The club has subsequently stood down the coach while the investigation is underway and disaffiliated from the national body due to their handling of the complaint.

The University has recently formed a working group to consider the relationship with affiliated bodies and residential colleges. The review will consider the nature of the agreements that are in place with all the affiliates to ensure that they position the University with the appropriate rights and responsibilities.

The Financial Health Check has resulted in two clubs been put on notice to supply the required information. Funds misappropriated from a club reported that prompted the health check process have been repaid.

Twenty-four student-athletes, alumni and club members represented Australia in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympic Games. Alumna Jessica Morrison (MBA) and Boat Club member Lucy Stephan won gold, fellow rower and alumna Ria Thompson (Science) won bronze, and student-athlete Dr Elena Galiabovitch (Surgery) carried the Olympic flag at the Opening Ceremony representing Oceania's front-line COVID-19 workers. Student-athlete and Buxton scholar Jaryd Clifford (Arts) won a silver at the Paralympics in both the 5000ms and marathon, and alumnus Dylan Alcott (Commerce) won his fourth gold medal in wheelchair tennis.

#### **Resolution**

*The Advisory Board noted the Advisory Board Update.*

**4. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**5. MEETING FINALISATION**

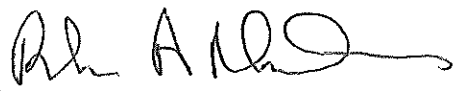
**5.1 Meeting Close**

The meeting closed at 11.10am.

**5.2 Next Meeting**

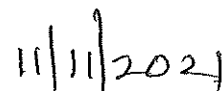
Next meeting on Thursday 11 November 2021 at 9:30am – 11:00am.

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:



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Chair Mr Ian Marshman



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Date

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD  
ACTION SHEET 4/2021 – 9 September 2021

No Actions listed.