

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING 2/2024 – 30 May 2024

The minutes of meeting 2/2024 of the Melbourne University Sport (MU Sport) Advisory Board held on 30 May at 6pm in Social Space A, Nona Lee Sports Centre.

PRESENT:

Mr Ian Marshman (Chair)
Professor Pip Nicholson
Mr Matt Roseby
Ms Rosemary Bissett
Ms Stephanie Spence
Mr Tim Lee (Director)

APOLOGIES:

Ms Joanna Weston
Ms Kitty Chiller
Ms Lara McKay
Ms Meezaan Dickinson
Professor Sarah Biddulph

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Jo Massoud (Secretary)
Ms Toni Sutherland (Minute taker)
Ms Bridie Dixon
Mr Cam Owen
Ms Laura Ross
Ms Sally Phillips
Ms Jess Vinnicombe
Mr Sam Thompson
Ms Miranda Ramsay
Mr Tim Brabazon
Mr Simon Napthine

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting with the Acknowledgment of Country, welcomed everyone present including Mr Tim Brabazon, Mr Simon Napthine, Ms Jess Vinnicombe, Mr Sam Thompson and Ms Miranda Ramsay. The Chair thanked Mr Affleck, Fitness Services Manager, for conducting the tour of the Beaurepaire Fitness Centre for the Board members prior to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were noted.

1.3 Club Presentation – Mountaineering Club

Ms Phillips, Acting Sport Development Manager, introduced Ms Vinnicombe, President of the Mountaineering Club, and Mr Thompson and Ms Ramsay from the club committee.

Ms Vinnicombe and Mr Thompson presented on the wide range of activities that the club undertake, income sources, strategic goals, membership, opportunities and challenges. The club is one of the largest clubs at the University that also offer a range of training and leadership opportunities.

Discussion followed about additional assistance the club was seeking to address facility constraints, communication and access to a minibus to provide transport for students without cars in particular international students and students from equity groups.

The Chair thanked the club for the presentation.

Ms Vinnicombe, Mr Thompson and Ms Ramsay left the meeting at 6.30pm.

1.4 Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (No 1/2024) held on Thursday 14 March 2024 were confirmed via circular resolution on 22 May 2024.

1.5 Business Arising/Action Item Updates

1.5.1 Strategic Plan for Sport Workshop

The summary of the November 2023 Vision Workshop outcomes has been distributed in the meeting papers.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

2.1 Narrm Scholarship Program

The Director introduced Mr Brabazon, Director, Student Services (Student and Scholarly Services) to present on the University's Narrm Scholarship Program.

The Narrm Scholarship Program was launched in 2023 from the Advancing Melbourne strategy, as a significant change to the University's approach to equity to increase the aspiration of school-leavers who have not traditionally applied for a place at the University. The scholarships are offered to students who are enrolling in an undergraduate course and are experiencing disadvantage or are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

The program is a key element of the University's Widening Participation agenda, and is projected to cost \$64 million per year at full implementation. It is expected to support over 1,700 commencing students each year, a number that will grow to a over 4,800 students annually by 2030 at 25% of total domestic undergraduates.

Mr Brabazon was asked about the definition of other disadvantages within the Narrm Scholars categories, and he explained that this was a self-declared student from economic disadvantage on the VCAT form.

Mr Brabazon concluded the presentation, and the Board then considered how sport can support the Narrm Scholars to have access to regular physical activity to increase social connections and a sense of belonging. Mr Brabazon suggested an emphasis on engagement opportunities for scholars continuing into the second and third year of the program and the importance of co-design bespoke offerings.

The Chair thanked Mr Brabazon for his presentation.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the Narrm Scholars Program Presentation.

2.2 Investment Case for Sport

The Director introduced Mr Simon Naphthine from Snapper Consulting to present the Investment Case for Sport (the Case) draft circulated prior to the meeting.

The Director outlined that MU Sport had been invited by University Planning in early 2023 to develop a case for a significant investment in sporting infrastructure and Turnberry Consulting, who developed the Sports Needs Assessment, were initially engaged to undertake this work.

Mr Naphine was subsequently engaged in March this year, to replace Turnberry Consulting, and in collaboration with the Director and other senior staff developed the draft document.

Mr Naphine presented on the alignment with the University's strategies of the ambitious plan to increase student participation in physical activity at the University up to 70% by 2030 and the infrastructure and operational support required to achieve the target. The case includes a problem statement and options for more effective operational models that would allow additional funding to be directed towards equity programs and informal recreation activities. Board discussion followed the presentation, and it was suggested that additional detail/options and benefits be included to address the additional costs incurred currently

It was suggested that University data analytics systems that are now being developed that could provide more integrated tracking of student and staff participation, facilities usage, memberships, personalisation of communication that would be useful in demonstrating future success in engagement with Narm scholars and other priority groups.

Advanced data collection technology such as wi-fi data mapping may be available to measure informal activities and recreation room usage which would support more regular data collected from student surveys. Data requirements will be documented, and a proposal presented to the University to improve the tracking for our programs and services.

Greater emphasis on the ancillary benefits to the University's brand were discussed including engagement with international students via spectator involvement, engagement with equity group and student leadership that supported graduate employability. It was also agreed to add a reference to Murmuk Djerring, the University's Indigenous Strategy demonstrating leadership in equity, diversity and inclusion.

The Director outlined that the paper would be updated to reflect the feedback from the Board and then approved by Professor Nicholson before distribution to the University Planning Group.

The Chair thanked Mr Naphine for his presentation.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the Investment Case for Sport Presentation.

3. MATTERS FOR NOTING

3.1 Advisory Board Update

The Director presented an update on strategic tasks and significant issues.

A long running legal proceeding against a former club president regarding the ownership of club assets has now been settled. Another significant ongoing issue involved access to the Boat House by external groups which is now covered by a University agreement overseen by MU Sport.

The Strategic Plan for Sport Review is progressing with Mr Matt Gaffney from Enindico Consulting leading the project. The draft plan will be released in late June followed by the Vision Workshop before the final plan comes back to the Board for endorsement.

The first stage of the Sports Precinct Upgrade is proceeding through the design phase with construction now likely to start in March next year. Discussions have commenced with our sporting clubs on the decanting plan which is going to be a major exercise to relocate all our club and program activities during the project.

Participation is on track to achieve the 10% growth with the target of one million visits this year as we are currently sitting at just under 350,000 visits for first semester. The first quarter financial statements indicate a break even position with a

current operating surplus \$200k over budget as a result of the sale of the Waterski Boat for \$100k (\$98,181) and an additional \$157,000 for 2023 SSAF.

The Olympics are drawing to a close with 4 current students and 1 alum who have been selected to represent their county at Paris. Finally, Ms Lara McKay announced her resignation from the Board as she is taking up a role at QUT and will be leaving her role as Master of Ormond College in October.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the Advisory Board Update.

5. MEETING FINALISATION

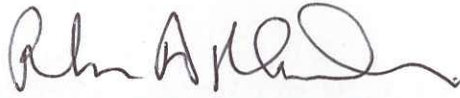
5.1 Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

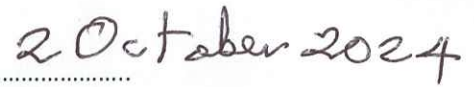
5.2 Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 29 August at 5.00pm.

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:



Chair Mr Ian Marshman



Date