

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING 4/2023 – 9 November

The minutes of meeting 4/2023 of the Melbourne University Sport (MU Sport) Advisory Board held on 9 November at 9.30am in Ernie Cropley Pavilion.

PRESENT:

Mr Ian Marshman (Chair)
Mr Tim Lee (Director)
Ms Rosemary Bissett
Ms Lara McKay
Mr Matt Roseby
Ms Stephanie Spence

APOLOGIES:

Professor Pip Nicholson
Ms Kitty Chiller
Ms Meezaan Dickinson
Ms Joanna Weston

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Gary Ryan
Ms Jo Massoud (Secretary)
Ms Toni Sutherland (Minute taker)
Mr Alex Affleck
Mr Billy Allen
Mr Craig Bamford
Mr Ken Barton
Ms Bridie Dixon
Ms Jen Eslick
Ms Liz Tregoning
Mr Peter Walker
Mr Rod Warnecke

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting with the Acknowledgment of Country, welcomed everyone present including Mr Ryan to facilitate the Strategic Planning Workshop and the senior staff. Apologies were noted.

1.2 Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (No 3/2023) held on Thursday 21 September 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

1.3 Strategic Planning Workshop

The Director outlined that the purpose of the strategic planning workshop was to commence the review of the Strategic Plan for Sport.

The strategic plan recognizes the unique role that sport plays at the University in engaging with students, staff, and the alumni and demonstrates alignment with the University's Strategic Framework and ambitions for student and staff engagement.

The current strategic plan concluded in 2021 but the review was deferred until this year to enable the organization to focus on the immediate issue of getting students and staff back on campus post COVID with an ongoing improvement to programs and services and the development of new targeted programs.

The review will ensure that the next plan aligns with the University's strategic framework to 2030 and the process will involve consultation with stakeholders including meetings and workshops with members of the Board, senior university managers, staff, club leaders, alumni, and external partners. A discussion paper will be presented to the Board in May with the final plan presented in August.

The Director introduced Mr Ryan to conduct the workshop to formally commence the review of the Strategic Plan for Sport. The Board members and senior staff were divided into groups and asked to consider the three pillars from the strategic plan of participation, leadership, and performance. The goals and actions of each pillar were considered to determine the relevance and any changes or considerations listed by each group. The recommendations from the groups were presented with a range of strategic themes emerging aligned with the University strategy of improving the student and staff experience. Mr Ryan concluded the workshop but outlining that the notes from each group will be collated and provided to the Board members and to the project consultant for reference in future workshops and interviews.

The Chair thanked those present for their contribution and Mr Ryan for facilitating the workshop.

Action

The Secretary to distribute to the Board a summary of the workshop outcomes.

2. ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

2.1 Advisory Board Update

The Director presented the Advisory Board Update.

The University has provided an updated forecast for 2024 and due to a projected increase in student numbers, the SSAF allocation for MU Sport would increase by \$600k ensuring a break-even result next year rather than the deficit budget forecasted at the previous meeting.

A high-level summary of the Investment Case is being prepared to be presented by the Estates Planning Team to the Provost Professor Phillips, to secure support for the operational and the capital funding required for future projects.

The concept design phase for the refurbishment of the outdoor facilities in the Sport Precinct has commenced. The project budget is \$18m of which \$13m is set aside for the oval and rectangle pitch/athletic track. The project completion date is set for May 2025 which would appear ambitious at this stage.

Four new members have been appointed to the Elite Athlete Advisory Group (EAAG), including freestyle skier Ms Sophie Ash, board member Ms Stephanie Spence, Ms Eleanor Spencer-Regan Head of Principal Janet Clarke Hall and Dr Courtney Walton from MDHS. The EAAG is chaired by the Director and includes previous Board members Professor James and Professor Hargreaves

The participation data up to October was presented with weekly attendances for the early part of second semester strong with 350k additional visits during the semester compared to last year. The gym and group fitness numbers have improved against last year but have not yet recovered to 2019 levels whilst the pool and informal use are at record numbers. 300 students and support staff attended the Uni Nationals on the Gold Coast taking out seven national titles. Significant financial support was once again provided by the

University to enable 80 students to attend but also ensure that many of our teams were able to compete.

The Australian Boat Race against the University of Sydney returned to Melbourne for the first time since 2019 and the Director thanked the staff and the volunteers from the boat club who worked tirelessly to put on another great event.

The Chair expressed his concern with the decision by UniSport Australia to hold the UniNationals next year in Canberra outside of the semester break. Discussion followed around the likely impact on the team size for a five-day competition held during semester. It was also considered unlikely that academic divisions and residential colleges would support students to attend. The Director outlined ongoing discussions with colleagues at Sydney and Adelaide universities regarding alternative competition opportunities for specific sports for next year and will report on the outcome of these discussions at the next meeting.

The Director farewelled Mr Warnecke who is taking long service leave for 12 months and closed by thanking the Board for their contribution and support during the year and presented a small gift.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the Advisory Board Update.

Action

Director to report on the 2024 UniNationals program and alternative representative sport opportunities.

3. MEETING FINALISATION

3.1 Meeting Close

The Chair thanked the staff of MU Sport and the Director for their continued diligence and professionalism during the year.

The meeting closed at 11.35am.

3.2 Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 14 March at 6.00pm.

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:

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Chair [name]

.....
Date

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD

ACTION SHEET 4/2023 – 9 November 2023

| Minute no. | Item Title | Action | Person/s Responsible |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1.2 | Strategic Planning Workshop | Distribute to the Board summary of the workshop outcomes. | Secretary |
| 2.1 | Advisory Board Update | Report on the 2024 UniNationals program and alternative representative sport opportunities. | Director |