

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT BOARD
MEETING 5/2019 – 21 November 2019

The minutes of meeting 5/2019 of the Melbourne University Sport Board held on Thursday 21 November at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Nona Lee Sports Centre.

Please note that there are no minutes from the March meeting as the meeting was cancelled.

PRESENT:

Professor James Angus (Chair)
Ms Lara McKay
Ms Joanna Weston
Mr James Marburg
Mr Shawn Ingle
Ms Anna Traill

APOLOGIES:

Professor Richard James
Professor Sarah Biddulph
Ms Alex Lawlor

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Liam Thomas for item 1.3 (President, Ski 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

1.2 Apologies

Professor James, Professor Biddulph and Ms Lawlor were listed as apologies.

1.3 Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interests declared.

1.4 Club Presentation – Ski Club

Mr Warnecke introduced the President of the MUSki Club, Liam Thomas. Mr Thomas shared the overarching purposes of the club to provide affordable access to snow sports for all students and to provide an inclusive peer network for club members.

The Club's activities have largely focused on recreational and racing trips. Trips have continued to expand nationally and internationally as demand has increased yearly. The MU Sport Ski Lodge located at Mount Buller has been a staple for snow trips during this period. These trips have also provided professional skill building opportunities for members through the co-ordination of leadership and administrative duties and the management of students.

Since 2013, club membership has been on an upward trend, with a now approximate 50/50 gender split. The Club has aspirations to enter the competitive racing scene with a race training week currently being planned for students interested in competing. The Club is

focused on providing a framework for safety to all members which aligns with the Safety Management Plan. The development of an online portal and database in the future will be helpful for dealing with related administrative activities. The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Mr Marburg asked what were the costs involved for students wishing to participate across the season. Nationally, these range from \$300 to \$900. The Chair asked whether Mr Thomas is currently mentoring a club member to take on the presidency once he steps down. This was confirmed.

1.5 Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

1.6 Confirmation of Circular Resolutions

There were no circular resolutions to confirm.

1.7 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 2019 Wellbeing Survey

Mr Naughton introduced Mr David McLeod to present the 2019 Wellbeing Survey. The primary objective of the Wellbeing Survey is to measure the importance of sport and physical recreation amongst the student population. This year had a record number of students respond across the entire University of Melbourne cohort.

The following top-line results included:

82% of students stated that it is important the University of Melbourne provide programs and facilities for physical activities, an increase of 2% from 2017, and 4% from 2015. The number one reason for students not-participating in sport and fitness at the University was due to travel time. Interestingly, most of the metrics for non-participation reasons has decreased since the last distribution of the Wellbeing Survey. The 2019 survey showed that 83% of inactive students are still interested in joining sport and fitness activities at the University.

Ms McKay asked if the survey sample had any segmentation around colleges. This version of the survey does not have clear segmentation; however, Mr McLeod and the Marketing team will be providing demographic breakdowns for each question in the final version of the report.

The Chair noted the development of the Parkville metro station and its impact on how the next student cohort will perceive the University as a 'home'. The Wellbeing Survey stands as an important piece to track this over the next decade.

Resolution

The Board noted the 2019 Wellbeing Survey's top-line results.

Action

The full 2019 Wellbeing Survey findings to be distributed to the Board.

3.2 Volunteerism Review

Ms Junot introduced the Volunteerism review as a vital piece for understanding how to support MU Sport volunteers. The review consisted of informant reviews with a selection of the organisation's key stakeholders, a club database desktop audit and an online search of volunteer management frameworks developed by Australian sporting bodies. There are currently approximately 1,100 volunteers at MU Sport ranging from team managers to coaches to club administrators.

Several key themes emerged from the desktop audit conducted and conversations held with volunteers. Personal motivation was found to be the strong factor for volunteering. Participants expressed that volunteering is a natural extension of competing and playing within their given sport. It also represents their passion for the sport and has provided volunteers the opportunity to develop their professional and leadership skills. The second key theme was social. Volunteers placed significant value on clubs being a space for a shared cohort experience where they could socialize and learn from one another.

The review made evident that clubs with robust governance structures tended to have the best volunteer outcomes. This included clearly defined roles for volunteers, induction processes and well-developed strategic plans. The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

Mr Marburg outlined his experiences working alongside volunteers. Retention of volunteers is important – some of the best volunteers who guided him during his sporting career had spent countless hours donating their time to the sport. Mr Ingle shared this sentiment and noted the importance of club volunteers sharing their experiences amongst each other to problem solve common issues. Ms McKay suggested that through the volunteer framework, Sport cultivate a clear identity for volunteers. There is strong value in clarifying a volunteer's role and purpose in delivering club activities.

The Director noted that an important part of the framework was to shift a significant portion of the compliance and administrative obligations of the clubs onto Sport. This ensures that club volunteers can focus on getting their teams on the field and competing in their given sport.

Resolution

The Board noted the Volunteerism Review

3.3 Elite Student-Athlete Support

Mr Warnecke outlined the Elite Student-Athlete Support discussion paper. The Elite-Athlete Entry Scheme aims to build aspirations for prospective high school students by setting a predetermined ATAR guaranteeing them a place at the University. Unfortunately, since 2017, the scheme has only allowed additional consideration for applicants with an ATAR at or above the minimum for their desired course. This effectively means no students have benefitted from the scheme since 2017.

Mr Ingle discussed the tension between the performance pillar and the University's aspirations to become the top global University. Mr Marburg shared an example of an aspiring student who was not offered a place at the University of Melbourne due to his ATAR score. Despite this, he was offered a full scholarship to study economics at Yale University. In these cases, ATAR is only one of many tests of aptitude.

The Director noted that MU Sport can do a better job of spreading the stories of our elite student-athletes. Many have gone on to make significant contributions to the broader public post-sporting and university life. Sharing these stories of public service may be the trigger which pushes the Academic Board to strongly consider supporting an Access Melbourne style

entry scheme for student-athletes. Ms Traill and Ms Weston shared this sentiment, noting that there would be a small number of students selected through the modified scheme.

Mr Warnecke outlined the proposal to reallocate a portion of the High-Performance cash based awards towards providing more comprehensive support services for elite student-athletes. This includes performance psychology, nutrition, sports science and more. Drawing from his experience as an elite student-athlete, Mr Ingle shared the value of the existing services offered through MU Sport. They have been vital in developing him both as a student and an athlete, however they are not currently available to all within the program. Engaging these services outside of the University is expensive and likely greater than the stipend currently provided to some students.

Ms McKay asked how decisions are made as to which students have access to the current support services. Judgements are made based on the type of sport, the level of competition/performance and how much access the student has to other services (e.g. national and international representatives).

The Director emphasised the need to nuance the philanthropy message communicated to donors and recipients as part of this initiative. Part of the request being made to donors is to demonstrate that MU Sport is committed to provide elite student-athletes with more than just cash. Adding an expanded range of support services would offer a larger number of elite student-athletes the opportunity to pursue their athletic and academic goals at the University.

Resolution

The Board noted the Elite Student-Athlete Support paper.

3. MATTERS FOR NOTING

4.1 Director's Report

The Director presented the Director's Report.

The Director provided an update on outstanding club agreements. The Chair asked about the future of the Swimming Club based on its decision not to continue as an affiliated club in the current form. Mr Warnecke will continue to work with the commercial tenant managing the club to ensure a student club can be reestablished. An update on the Club Affiliation Agreements would be provided to the Board.

The Director highlighted that FFAM has committed funding to the Southbank Fitness Studio. The organisation is pleased that a faculty has contributed directly to the operations of a fitness facility.

Ms McKay asked about the recent incident in close proximity to the Beaurepaire Centre. MU Sport is currently working with University security to ensure that the organisation is appropriately notified as these incidents occur.

Resolution

The Board noted the Director's Report.

Action

To provide an update on outstanding Club Affiliation Agreements at the next meeting.

4.2 Finance Report

Mr Garlick presented the finance report for noting.

Resolution

The Board noted the Finance report.

Commercial in Confidence

Agenda item no. 1.4

4.3 2020 Meeting Dates

Mr Garlick presented proposed MU Sport Board meetings for 2020.

Resolution

The Board noted the proposed 2020 meeting dates.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

6. MEETING FINALISATION

6.1 Meeting Close

The Director presented each Board member with a gift and thanked them for their contribution this year. The Chair also thanked the Board for their interest and involvement during the year.

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

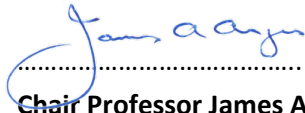
The meeting closed at 8:00pm.

6.2 Next Meeting

Next meeting on Thursday 5 March 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

2/6/2020

Date