

## MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD

### MEETING 3/2024 – 2 October 2024

The minutes of meeting 3/2024 of the Melbourne University Sport (MU Sport) Advisory Board held on 2 October at 5pm in the Ernie Cropley Pavilion.

#### PRESENT:

Mr Ian Marshman (Chair)  
Professor Pip Nicholson  
Mr Matt Roseby  
Ms Rosemary Bissett  
Ms Stephanie Spence  
Ms Kitty Chiller (online until 5.25pm)  
Mr James Hardiman  
Mr Jesse Gardner-Russell  
Mr Tim Lee (Director)

#### APOLOGIES:

Professor Sarah Biddulph  
Ms Meezaan Dickinson  
Ms Joanna Weston

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Jo Massoud (Secretary)  
Ms Laura Ross (Minute taker)  
Ms Clare Arragon  
Ms Laura Ross  
Ms Sally Phillips  
Ms Alana Butler  
Mr Martin Doulton

#### 1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION

##### 1.1 Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting with the Acknowledgment of Country, welcomed everyone present including new board members Mr Hardiman and Mr Gardner-Russell, Mr Doulton and MU Sport Staff.

##### 1.2 Apologies

Apologies were noted.

##### 1.3 Club Presentation – Hockey Club

Ms Phillips, Sport Development Manager, introduced Ms Butler, President of the Hockey Club (MUHC). Ms Butler presented the club's new strategic plan underpinned by the club's commitment to be inclusive over performance-focused, to ensure that teams at every level have the ability to be competitive. The new strategic plan includes a new vision, mission, and values that inform the club's focal points. Four key priority areas were outlined (hockey, facilities, leadership/governance/sustainability and the MUHC brand) with a rationale for the role of each. Ms Butler also detailed how the club are planning to raise awareness within the University community to raise the profile of the Hockey Club, which currently sitting at 291 club members. It was noted that although the relocation to

the club to Parkville has enhanced the unity of the Club, the connection to the University have diminished. Suggestions were made for the Club to run clinics for the colleges and use this as an opportunity to recruit. A discussion followed, which highlighted that better access to equipment and facilities would necessitate better training and performance outcomes for players and increased levels of student participation. The Board also discussed other avenues to increase access and participation within the Hockey Club compared to other competing clubs, such as spectator engagement opportunities to increase overall interest in the sport.

The Chair thanked the club for the presentation.

Ms Butler left the meeting at 5.35pm.

#### **1.4 Minutes from Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting (No 2/2024) held on Thursday 30 May 2024 were confirmed via circular resolution on 18 September 2024.

## **2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **2.1 Healthy Campus Program**

The Director introduced Mr Doulton, General Manager, Advocacy at UniSport Australia. Mr Doulton began with a background into the origins of UniSport, and in turn the International University Sports Federation (known as FISU), which developed the Healthy Campus Program. The program was initiated as a means of positively impacting student health and wellbeing in a university setting, by assessing four key areas. Mr Doulton shared the core goals and objectives of FISU and the Healthy Campus Program, across seven domains – these are physical activity and sport, nutrition, disease prevention, mental and social health, risk behaviour, sustainability and social responsibility, and healthy campus management. The program is globally accepted and built as a bespoke offering for a university setting. Label statuses are awarded to participating universities, ranked in accordance with their success in each of the domains. Discussion followed about the challenges of implementing the program within the University. It was agreed that the program would have more impact if led by the University as a whole versus Sport, whereby the University works together to create a health campus. It was proposed that the University's Student Wellbeing Committee could be an appropriate mechanism to introduce the Healthy Campus Program as it focuses on student health and wellbeing. It was noted that the staff journey is currently not being considered and would be of importance in considering adopting the program within the University. The merits of introducing the program for the health and wellbeing of students and staff alike were also noted. The importance of the Times Higher Education Impact Rating was referenced, which identifies and celebrates universities that excel across multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which the adoption of the Healthy Campus Program would support.

The Chair thanked Mr Doulton for his presentation.

#### **Resolution**

*The Advisory Board noted the Healthy Campus Program presentation.*

### **2.2 The Strategic Plan for Sport**

The Director presented updates to the new Strategic Plan for Sport. The Director outlined the status of the Strategic Plan for Sport, working towards completing the new plan by the end of October 2024. Feedback received during the project's consultation period was shared, and the new direction of the planning process, which included the development of an outwards and inwards facing version of the final documentation, which will encompass an action plan. Measures and targets will be mapped out to help achieve the plan's objectives and inform plans for 2025. An overview of the new themes and measures was shared with the board, these include

Active Engagement, Performance and Community. A brief discussion of the themes followed, which included commentary about the word 'Performance', as it could be in reference to 'excellence' or to 'competition/competitiveness'. It was noted that a focus on elite athletes needs to be maintained. It was also noted that a renaming of this theme might change the priorities and cause misalignment in other areas of Performance. The theme 'Community' was discussed, and it was suggested to consider the word 'belonging' as an alternative. Overall, it was agreed that more clarity on each of the themes and related priorities/measures would be valuable, in the consolidation of the final plan. It was noted that new board members are to receive a copy of the discussion paper that was circulated during the plan's consultation period. The final plan is due to be ratified by the Board at the November Board meeting. It was determined that the July 2024 Vision Workshop findings were not representative of an appropriate vision for the new plan. However, the Director proposed the wording, 'where everyone can find their place,' which was received positively by the room. The Chair thanked the Director for his presentation.

#### **Resolution**

*The Advisory Board noted the updated Strategic Plan for Sport Presentation.*

#### **Action**

*The final plan to be ratified by the Board at the November Board meeting.*

### **2.3 Investment Case**

The Director presented the completed Investment Case. It was noted that at updated in the development of the project's timeline, which included changes made to the Investment Case with the assistance of the project consultant Mr Naphthine. The final proposal was submitted to the Estate Planning Group for review. Key elements of the document were outlined, including two strategic goals: 1) That 70% of all students are participating in sport and recreation activities at the University by 2030, and 2) That all sporting programs and services, including clubs, are safe, respectful and inclusive and the conduct of participants (students, staff, and community) adhere to the University's behavioural expectations and are consistent with the duty of care to students. Three significant investment challenges were also noted, these included: 1) The underinvestment in sports infrastructure outlined in the Sports Needs Assessment shared as part of the project, which was with the Board, 2) The cost of providing complex sport operations and maintaining and operating facilities, and 3) The funding required to provide targeted equity programs as targeted programs that cost more to deliver. The next step in the project is to await feedback from the Estate Planning Group, however it was noted that plans may be hampered by the recent announcement to cap International Students, and the follow on effect of this news. It was noted that some clarity should be gained by the end of 2024, which will inform the likelihood of plan progressions in 2025 and beyond, and that the operating model be considered as a priority.

The Chair thanked the Director for his presentation.

#### **Resolution**

*The Advisory Board noted the updated Strategic Plan for Sport Presentation.*

### **2.4 2025 Advisory Board Budget**

The Chair introduced Ms Massoud, General Manager, to present on the 2025 Budget. Ms Massoud detailed the overall budget and the 2025 budget principles, including future planning/considerations. The Board was shown the 2024 budget and forecast and the 2025 indicative budget. The Board was asked to note the 2025 budget, with consideration to external factors contributing to any surplus. It was noted that future planning will include quarterly planning to continue to optimise

forecasting across the year. It was requested that budget reporting include a pie charge of income and expenditure trends over the last few years.

The Chair thanked Ms Massoud for her presentation.

**Resolution**

*The Advisory Board noted the 2025 Advisory Board Budget Presentation.*

**3. MATTERS FOR NOTING**

**3.1 Advisory Board Update**

The Director presented an update on issues and strategic tasks. Mr Lee began by noting the announcement of the new Vice Chancellor, Professor Johnston. The Director also provided an update on recent participation statistics, noting visitors sitting at 500,000, comparable to 2019 data. Notable contributions to this figure stemmed from the Narm Scholars and international student participation. Terry Reade's passing was acknowledged with his immense contribution to Sport at the University highlighted. The news of a donation in the form of a Blues Hocket Jacket from 1924 was shared with the room, which will soon be hung on the Sports Gallery for display. Farewells were given to outgoing Board members Ms McKay and Mr Roseby, acknowledging and thanking both for their contributions.

The Chair thanked the Director for his presentation.

**Resolution**

*The Advisory Board noted the Advisory Board Update.*

**5. MEETING FINALISATION**

**5.1 Meeting Close**

The meeting closed at 7.06pm.


**5.2 Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 14 November at 9.30am.

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:



Chair Mr Ian Marshman



Date

**MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD**

**ACTION SHEET 3/2024 – 2 October 2024**

<b>Minute no.</b>	<b>Item Title</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Person/s Responsible</b>
3/2024 2.2	Strategic Plan for Sport discussion paper	Distribute paper to incoming board members Mr Hardiman and Mr Gardner-Russell	Secretary
3/2024 2.2	Strategic Plan for Sport endorsement	The final plan to be ratified by the Board at the November Board paper	Director
3/2024 2.4	Pie chart of income and expenditure trends over the last few years	Distribute chart to board members	Secretary

