

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING 3/2023 – 21 September

The minutes of meeting 3/2023 of the Melbourne University Sport (MU Sport) Advisory Board held on 21 September at 6pm in University House.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Ms Lara McKay

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Jo Massoud (Secretary)
Mrs Julie Caundle
Mr Harlan Smith for item 1.3
Mr Tim Brabazon for item 2.1
Mr Rod Warnecke
Ms Jen Eslick
Ms Maddy Goldsmith
Ms Toni Sutherland (Minute taker)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone present and commenced with an Acknowledgment of Country. The Chair thanked Mr Brabazon, University of Melbourne Director of Student Services and Mr Smith, President University of Melbourne Aikido Club (Item 1.3) for attending the meeting. He also acknowledged the MU Staff presenters Sport Development Manager Mr Warnecke, Student Board Member Mr Roseby, Active Campus Manager Ms Eslick and Sport Competitions Coordinator Ms Goldsmith.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were noted.

1.3 Club Presentation - Aikido Club

Mr Warnecke introduced Mr Smith, President of the Aikido Club, to present on the club and their strategic plan. Mr Smith outlined the immediate goals of increasing student retention, fundraising and promotion and the steps taken for each. Discussion followed on a range of issues and challenges facing the club and why students would choose to take up Aikido. The key issue that the club needed support on was access to a dedicated flat floor space.

The Chair thanked Mr Smith for the presentation.

Mr Smith left the meeting at 6.22pm.

1.4 Minutes from previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting (No 2/2023) held on Thursday 3 August 2023, were accepted as a true and accurate record.

1.5 Business Arising/Action Item Updates

1.5.1 Capital Planning

The Director noted that the Estates Master Plan had been distributed to the Board as requested at the last meeting.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

2.1 Student Athlete Mental Health

The Chair introduced Mr Roseby and Mr Warnecke to present on Melbourne University's Student-athlete Wellbeing Framework.

Mr Warnecke outlined how students, as a result of academic and financial pressures, can experience heightened levels of distress, isolation and poor self-care. University students aged between 17 and 25 years are also in the age bracket where mental health issues are most likely to begin. Sport can play a significant role in addressing mental health issues by providing social connections and regular physical activity.

Mr Roseby shared his experience of the pressures as a student athlete during his time playing college basketball in the USA. The lack of appropriate student-athlete mental health support systems had a detrimental impact on his experience.

The presentation provided an overview of the initiatives currently being implemented to support student-athlete mental health under the umbrella of the "Student Athlete Wellbeing Framework." This framework outlines support for student-athlete wellbeing via five key pillars: Education – informing via seminars and workshops; Physical – creating a quality training environment; Support – providing access to support services; Social – engaging through informal opportunities; and Digital – using LMS Canvas as a resource and learning hub.

Discussion followed about the role of sport, recreation and fitness in supporting positive mental health among the students of Melbourne University. This discussion included practical and informal additions to the framework such as the Mental Health First Aid workshops and the student-led Coffee Club.

The Director acknowledged the work that Mr Roseby has done across the Student Wellbeing Committee and the University Basketball League (UBL).

The Chair thanked both Mr Warnecke and Mr Roseby for their presentations.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the Student Athlete Mental Health presentation.

2.2 Student and Staff Engagement Strategy

The Chair introduced Ms Eslick, Active Campus Manager, and Ms Goldsmith, Sport Competitions Coordinator, who presented on the Student and Staff Engagement strategy.

The presentation provided an overview of MU Sport's current programs and initiatives, outlined the positive impact on participation and demonstrated the alignment with the University strategies for student engagement.

The strategic goal is to increase opportunities for the University community to engage in a diverse range of physical activities that are safe, respectful, and inclusive. The 2023 focus is to continue to expand the range of programs and services across all campuses and ensure effective promotion across relevant university communication channels.

This was accelerated due to the \$400,000 grant provided by the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Group (VCAG) for 2023. A business unit was established to develop and deliver

a range of new programs focused on two key groups, those who are engaged in regular physical activity but not at the University, and those who are considered inactive. This includes underrepresented groups, equity groups and students at rural and smaller metro campuses. Ms Eslick noted the example of Run Club, which was a fast-growing, student-led program success. The Chair and others noted their observations of recent campus activations. Ms Eslick reiterated the Active Campus goal to engage with 70% of students by 2030 and for measurable student satisfaction to also go up accordingly.

It was noted that while SSAF funding is student focused only, targeting staff with Active Campus programs may assist in improving staff satisfaction and “anchoring” them back on campus. It was suggested that MU Sport review how staff’s reduced time on campus may impact existing pricing models for facilities usage. The Chair noted that it was a great discussion on both staff engagement and student led activities.

Mr Brabazon left the meeting at 7.30pm.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the Student and Staff Engagement Strategy presentation.

2.3 2024 Advisory Board Budget

The Director presented the indicative budget, budget principles (approved by the Board in 2019) and the previous agreement to have deficit budgets which, while not sustainable, are essential to have the doors open upon students’ return to campus. The Director proposed to continue with deficit budget again for 2024 and look to break even in 2025 while also reviewing the current impacts on the bottom line, such as carrying infrastructure/cleaning costs, program costs. The Director noted this was a conservative budget, and that November will be when the comprehensive 2024 budget is presented.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the 2024 Advisory Board Budget update.

3. MATTERS FOR NOTING

3.1 Advisory Board Update

The Director presented the Advisory Board Update.

The Director presented on current significant issues, progress of annual strategic tasks and risk management issues as well as noting upcoming key events such as Uni Nationals and the Boat Race. The Director was very pleased to announce that overall participation numbers in August were very close to those from 2019.

Resolution

The Advisory Board noted the Advisory Board Update.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

The Director thanked Mrs Caundle for her extraordinary thirty-two years of service to MU Sport and wished her well in her upcoming retirement. The Chair presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

The Chair requested Board meeting and event dates for 2024, and asked for feedback on which meeting times would be preferred by Board members.

Action

The 2024 Advisory Board meeting dates, plus key event dates, be distributed to members of the MU Sport Advisory Board.

5. MEETING FINALISATION

5.1 Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

5.2 Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 9 November at 9.30am.

Signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record:

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Chair [name]

.....
Date

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SPORT ADVISORY BOARD

ACTION SHEET 3/2023 – 21 September 2023

Minute no.	Item Title	Action	Person/s Responsible
4	Other Business	That the 2024 Advisory Board meeting dates, plus key event dates, be distributed to members of the MU Sport Advisory Board.	Secretary