

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY CLUB FORUM

28 MAY 2014

The notes of the Melbourne University Sport Club Forum held on Wednesday, 28 May 2014 at 6.00pm in the Pavilion Function Room.

PRESENT:

Mr Geoff Rees (Chair)
Professor Richard James (Board)
Mr Tim Lee (Director)
Mr Andrew Gillies (Board- Student member)
Mr Chris Harvey (Advancement)
Mr Rod Warnecke (MU Sport)
Mr Jean-Luc Garlick (MU Sport)
Ms Betony Dawson (MU Sport)
Mr Alex Affleck (MU Sport)
Ms Kylie Moulds (note taker)

APOLOGIES:

Mr James Sutherland
Mr Adrian Collette

IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Shaw - Aikido	Edmund Kron - Ski
Shravan Bhurtan – Aikido	Danielle Senyselyn - Softball
Hamish Beaumont – Athletics	Kira Sparrow - Softball
Lewis Tang – Badminton	Sylvia Tiet - Squash
Vibeke Pederson – Baseball	Paul Allen – Taekwondo (Rhee)
Nathan Goldwaser – Dancesport	Lei Huang – Taekwondo (WTF)
Dave Chambers – Gridiron	Rhys Cleghorn - Tennis
James Stewart – Hockey	Marija Buljan - Touch
Jularaj Suthibutr – Kendo	Mel Tate - Underwater
Jessica Kaaden – Lacrosse	Hannah Dunn – Waterski & Wakeboard
Peter Cusack – Rugby	David Jame – Weightlifting & Powerliftin

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Club forums are an opportunity to discuss generic club issues and the strategic direction of sport at the University. Notes and presentations from the previous forums can be found on the MU Sport website.

2. APOLOGIES

The Chair accepted apologies from Vice Principal Engagement Adrian Collette and Board member James Sutherland.

3. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING

3.1 Funding Model Review

The Director presented an outline of the Club Funding Review process which has been determined by the Board.

The 41 sporting Clubs provide the 7,000 members with a range of competitive sporting, recreational and instructional opportunities each year. In 2005 clubs received close to \$600,000 in funding support. Post Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) funding was reduced to \$130,000 in 2006 but increased to \$345,000 in 2014 with the introduction of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF).

Financial and in-kind support from MU Sport is crucial for some clubs but not so critical for other Clubs. Despite participation numbers continuing to increase the performance of many competitive clubs has not improved over the last five years.

MU Sport has decided to undertake a review of the current Club funding model and develop a more transparent criteria for the distribution of funds in line with the *Strategic Plan for Sport*.

The terms of reference and project timeline were presented.

The Chair announced that MU Sport will provide an additional \$200,000 in 2015 to support strategic initiatives in line with the review.

3.2 Sport and Clubs Working Group (SCWG)

Mr Warnecke reported on the recently established Sports and Clubs Working Group. SCWG was established by MU Sport to assist with the development of guidelines, policies and procedures in relation to sport and sporting Clubs at the University.

The SACS Committee Report (2012) recommendation identified the need for the development of sports-related policies and procedures consistent with the University's Strategic Plan for Sport.

In response to a question the Director responded that Clubs currently supported by MU Sport would be deemed to be affiliated with the University of Melbourne. This process had been endorsed by the Board and would be further referenced in the Club Service Agreements. The Club Service Agreement would be generic across each club, with a set of support schedules specific to each club.

3.3 Campaign for Melbourne

Mr Harvey reported on the Campaign for Melbourne opportunities for clubs to be involved in annual giving. Currently \$290m of the \$500m dollar campaign target has been raised. Mr Harvey highlighted that sport is part of the campaign and explained that the Melbourne University Sport Foundation aims to assist with the long term sustainability of Clubs, and currently comprises six Club Chapters. Hockey was the first to establish a chapter and the Boat Club have recently established an annual appeal. Clubs now have the opportunity to promote club giving and donations via an online process developed by the Advancement Office.

In response to a question Mr Harvey confirmed that Clubs were notified directly when a donation was received (unless the donor has requested anonymity). MU Sport also provides a quarterly report directly to the Club.

Clubs interested in fundraising through donations, setting up an annual appeal or establishing a Sport Foundation chapter should speak to Mr Harvey.

The Chair reiterated that funding would provide more opportunities to bring students into the MU Sport Club system, however strategies must be aligned with the University of Melbourne Strategic Plan for Sport. The Board is receiving indications from the University that if sport does deliver towards the strategic plan there could potentially be more funds available.

Mr Stewart thanked the Board for its commitment to additional support.

A question was raised in regards to opportunities for sport scholarships and incentives to bring international students to the University of Melbourne. Professor James mentioned it would depend on what the University thinks about sport as a product and what it can offer to students and alumni. It was suggested we could learn more from universities in the United States where involvement in sport, recreation and fitness is an integral part of a student's overall experience on campus.

3.4 2013 Member's Survey – Next Step

Ms Dawson, acting for Marketing Manager Ms Villalino provided an update on the Club Member Survey undertaken in 2013.

Sports Development will meet with some Clubs to review their results and discuss opportunities for increasing member satisfaction, in particular any areas which are below the Club type benchmark.

The next survey will be conducted in 2015 and bi-annually thereafter.

4. OTHER MATTERS

Budget implications for the Higher Education Sector

Professor James provided a brief summary on the recent federal budget and the implication for the Higher Education Sector.

5. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT FORUM

The next Club Forum will be held on Wednesday 15 October.

6. FORUM CLOSED

The Forum closed at 7.35pm.