



## **CitySport Working Group**

**Meeting 6 – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
D427 (Rhind Building)**

**2.00pm – 3.00pm**

### **APPROVED MINUTES**

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Meeting 1 30/09/14</b>	<b>Meeting 2 29/10/14</b>	<b>Meeting 3 26/11/14</b>	<b>Meeting 4 19/01/15</b>	<b>Meeting 5 16/02/15</b>	<b>Meeting 6 16/04/15</b>
Cliff Oswick (Chair)	√	√	√	√	√	√
Bill Thompson	√	A	√	√	√	√
Phillipa Weaver-Smith	√		√	√	√	A
Helen Fitch	√	√	√	√	A	A
Mark Smith	√	√	√	√	√	√
Matthew Shipton	A	√	A	√	√	
Gary Argent	A	√	√	A	A	-
Lindsey Venden	A*	√	√	√	A	√
Natalia Rajapakse	√	√	√	√	√	
Leon Cuthbertson	√	A	√	√	√	A
Maria Dingle	√	√	√	√	A	√
Laurence Solkin	√	√	√	√	√	√
Marco Comuzzi	√	A	√	√	A	√
Robert McPeake	√	A	A	A		A
Chantal Hill	A	A	A	√	A	
Dominic Davis	-	√	√	√	A	√
David Street	-	A	√	-	-	-
Sue Rees	-	-	-	√	√	√

√ indicates attendance

A indicates apologies have been provided

\* indicates representative sent

- indicates not a member at time of meeting

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and the Secretary noted the apologies received.

It was noted that as Gary Argent has now left the University, a new member of the working group would be needed from Careers, Student Development & Outreach. It was suggested that Ben Butler could be approached to replace Gary Argent on the Working Group.

**Action: Secretary to invite Ben Butler to the membership**

## **2. Approval of February 2015 minutes**

The members approved the February 2015 minutes as being an accurate record of the meeting.

## **3. Update from Sport and Leisure Services on grand opening event**

The Head of Sport and Leisure Services updated the members on what had been a very successful event, with over 200 attendees. The Vice-Chancellor's speech was complimentary of the facilities in general and focussed heavily on the benefits CitySport would bring to the student experience in general. Representatives from The Worshipful Company of Saddlers were present at the grand opening and were particularly impressed with how the event was run.

Particular praise was given to Ben Chapman for his efforts with the video footage taken on the day. The video was then projected in the meeting for the members to watch. Members commented that Marketing would be able to take segments from the footage to use in other media and on various webpages.

Dani King MBE was invited to speak at the event and her words were particularly well received. Her speech had a strong student focus, which was particularly pleasing. It stressed the need for high levels of student participation and enthusiasm.

A further verbal report was received on membership numbers for CitySport. Public and staff memberships are picking up and block bookings are now coming in. In terms of attrition, only two students have needed to cancel their direct debits.

The Head of Corporate Marketing reported that more work was needed around attracting corporate members. CitySport currently has 30, with an eventual future target of approximately 700. Information is being sent out to 10,000 local businesses within a ½ mile radius of the facilities. Posters are due to be displayed shortly at Barbican underground station and some more work will follow around Google Ads.

## **4. Revisit of medium and long-term objectives for a further update**

Members were asked for their updated views on the medium to long-term objectives, as were identified when the Working Group was originally formed. It was agreed that much of this remains on-going and that the objectives themselves could perhaps benefit from reconsideration.

Updates received as follows:

No.	Objective	Priority	October 2014 Update	January 2015 Update	April 2015 Update
3.	Identify and implement opportunities to build upon and enhance the Student Experience.	Medium-Term	Objective becomes more relevant once CitySport is fully operational. It is important to regularly explain to students the value of engaging with sport to develop transferable skills for their future employability prospects, such as leadership and team working.	The Student Development Team is reviewing student use of ExperienceCity since its launch in September, discussing progress so far with Sport and Leisure Services, amongst others. Part of this review will look at helping students translate the benefits they derive from partaking in sports activities to their application forms and performance at job interviews, for example.	In general, members agreed that this objective had been met. As the Working Group does not currently have any representation from CSDO, this will be revisited in September 2015 with the eventual new member.
4.	Develop a Student Community and engage with the local community, corporate bodies and alumni.	Medium-Term	Members noted that CitySport will primarily be for the use of students, rather than for the local community, rendering this more of an on-going objective.	Noted that activity around this objective will follow in due course.	An update on current and future activity around this was received for Item 3. Further verbal updates on membership numbers will follow at future meetings.
5.	Engage with Academic and Professional Services staff as well as the student body to promote CitySport and the value of participation in sport.	Medium-Term	Members considered the concept of academic staff actively encouraging students to engage with sport. Reference was also made to the value of promoting the newly developed "Experience City" website amongst the student body.	Noted that activity around this objective will follow in due course.	Members agreed that this remains on-going. Materials are currently being prepared for September 2015 induction and Sports and Leisure Services are working in close collaboration with the Marketing team. It was noted that the University currently has 625 students playing representative sport. It would certainly be good to increase this number.

6.	Develop CitySport as a recruitment opportunity for potential students.	Medium to Long-Term	The Head of Undergraduate Marketing and Recruitment will also consider this in the context of applicants and pre-applicants.	It was agreed that The Franklin Building should be included as an obligatory stop off point on the campus tours that run twice a week.	As regards upcoming Open Days, much organisation and preparation around CitySport promotion has already taken place. The Head of Sport and Leisure Services will conduct a number of talks at the Franklin Building. CitySport's presence has also been increased in the University prospectus and other promotional materials.
7.	Contribute to the enhancement of City University London's estate.	Long-Term	Consideration can be given to how this will feed into the Student Strategy in the future.	Noted that activity around this objective will follow in due course.	As an objective, this remains on-going It was noted that, to some extent, this is an especially difficult objective for the CitySport Working Group to contribute to.
8.	Contribute towards City University London's strategic goals and vision.	Long-Term	For future discussion.	Noted that activity around this objective will follow in due course, save for the fact that any activity around the new vision will feed into Education & Student Committee.	Acknowledged that enhancing the student experience remains a firm strategic priority. In general, this remains an on-going objective.
9.	Consider the on-going governance of CitySport beyond the period of City Sport Working Group activity.	Long-Term	For future discussion.	Noted that activity around this objective will follow in due course.	Remains on-going; to be revisited in September 2015.

## 5. Any other business

The Chair reminded the members that the remit of the Working Group was advisory and that it would need to continue to meet in order to provide updates to Education and Student Committee. That being said, members agreed that there was little that could further be achieved by meeting again before the start of the 2015-16 academic year.

Possible revisions and/or additions to the membership will be considered over the Summer months, with the next meeting to be scheduled for early September 2015. The title and continued remit of the group will be considered at the next meeting.

**Action: Secretary to arrange next meeting and circulate details**

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