

Minutes of the January 30, 2017 Minutes of the USRowing Board of Directors
Telephonic meeting 3:00 pm eastern time

Members Present:

Meghan O'Leary
Kris Thorsness
Sheila Tolle
Jim Dietz
Joe Manion
Nick LaCava
Bill Donoho
David Banks

Members Absent:

Nick LaCava

Others Present:

Matt Imes, USRowing

1. Populating the High Performance Committee:

The board first discussed expanding the membership of the HPC, to add another non-athlete member, because of the very strong candidate field and heavy workload facing the committee.

Motion to establish a four non-athlete member and two athlete member HPC made by Kris Thorsness and seconded by Sheila Tolle. No further discussion; unanimously approved

David Banks joined the call at 3:28 pm.

Motion to by Sheila Tolle to amend the High Performance Task Force recommendation to reconstitute the HPC as a six member group comprised of two athlete and four non-athlete members, with the future composition of athlete representation to be determined prior to the end of their current elected terms; seconded by David Banks. No further discussion; unanimously approved.

Motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters by Jim Dietz, and seconded by Kris Thorsness; unanimously approved at 3:32

Motion to exit executive session made by Kris Thorsness and seconded by Sheila Tolle. Unanimously approved at 3:46 pm

Motion to appoint Megan Kalmoe, Dan Walsh, Charley Butt, Rob Milam, Bob Ernst and Yaz Farooq to the High Performance Committee by Kris Thorsness, seconded by Jim Dietz. No further discussion; unanimously approved.

2. Review of HPC Recommendations re Athlete Retention, Training and Development: (Yellow language deleted, red language added)

- Hire Dedicate one full time staff member under the supervision of the HPD, to indentify and develop dedicated to identification and development of potential National Team athletes, while maintaining National Team coaches' involvement, so as to broaden the scope of identification efforts beyond the large collegiate programs. Specific metrics for this position will be defined by the HPD in consultation with the HPC.

Discussion: The Board discussed the need to keep the budget in mind, and the limits imposed by it, as well as the need to establish performance metrics to facilitate evaluation of progress toward success.

Motion to adopt the recommendation as amended above by Joe Manion and seconded by Jim Dietz. No further discussion; unanimously approved.

- Within the framework of a balanced national team budget, work to sSubstantially diminish financial obstacles to U23 participation.

Discussion: The Board again discussed the need for organizational actions to be handled in a fiscally responsible way.

Jamie Redman left the call at 4:03 pm

Motion to adopt the recommendation as amended above by Jim Dietz and seconded by Kris Thorsness. No further discussion; unanimously approved.

- Within the framework of a balanced national team budget, work to iIncrease athlete funding with an ultimate goal of achieving \$40,000 per year for medal-target athletes/seats training at the Princeton Training Center and High Performance Clubs to enhance our ability to retain high-performing athletes, beginning with a program that supports returning Olympic boat class medalists and then increasing the DAS pool to provide increased financial support of no less than \$30,000 per year for athletes with A-level final performances in medal-target boats.

Discussion: Matt Imes discussed the historical practice around direct athlete support funding as an issue balancing needs of the whole training group, and the need to find ways to help support athletes while training and developing. It gets refined each year, though athletes in other countries generally get paid more than U.S. athletes. To address coaches' concerns about DAS assignments, there will be defined numbers now. Amended language was proposed to allow flexibility and further analysis of how DAS funds should be allocated.

Motion to approve amended recommendation by Jim Dietz and seconded by Kris Thorsness. No further discussion; all votes Aye, except for Bill Donoho, who abstained.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 pm