



SUMMARY OF UBC'S VANCOUVER CAMPUS VARSITY TEAM ASSESSMENTS

February 28, 2014

UBC is adopting a new model that places varsity teams in three groups based on how ready they are to excel against the sport review's five groups of criteria. The criteria headings are:

- Competitive success, competition and progression
- Supports for competitive success
- Community support and tradition
- Partnerships
- Fit with UBC mission

Teams are listed alphabetically in each category.

MOST ABLE TO EXCEL ON CRITERIA

These teams were identified as being most ready and able to excel across the five criteria. These teams will have base funding, and full access to new integrated performance supports to ensure performance excellence, as well as supports to expand community engagement, partnerships and business development, as such new supports come on stream.

Basketball M – A very strong team against the five criteria with consistent, strong inter-university success and donor support. There are opportunities to improve in particular in the areas of partnership and academic success.

Basketball W – A very strong team against the five criteria, also with consistent, strong inter-university success. There are opportunities to improve in particular in the areas of donor support and partnership.

Football – A team that has excellent potential against all five of criteria, with strong tradition and donor support. There is considerable scope for improvement in competitive success, community engagement and academic success. A new partnership model is being implemented to close the gaps in delivering against the 5 criteria and to work with football to build on our school Thunderbird spirit initiative.

Swimming M/W (two teams) - A very strong team for both men and women against the criteria, with exceptional strength in competitive success and partnerships (with a UBC national centre designation through a Swim Canada partnership). Strong investment in a quality replacement facility is on track. There are opportunities to improve in community engagement and donor support.

Volleyball M - This team has considerable potential to deliver against all five criteria. Although there are currently some opportunities for improvement in competitive success, community engagement and donor support, the team was supported by a strong Stage 2 submission which highlighted alumni commitment to galvanize the community, to work in partnership with the women's team, and to deliver competitive success.

Volleyball W - A very strong team against the five criteria with outstanding competitive success and community engagement with the underpinning pathway. There are opportunities to grow donor support and to engage with the men's volleyball program to build the UBC Volleyball brand.

CONTINUING VARSITY

These teams were identified as either delivering, or having a solid plan to deliver, against some or all the criteria. These teams will have base funding, and some tailored access to integrated performance supports and supports for community engagement, partnerships and business development. Additional access to these supports could be made available with additional resources.

Cross country M/W (two teams) – A team with strong competitive success and performance pathway opportunities (a significant number of Thunderbird athletes have progressed to the Olympic level). However, donor support, partnerships and community engagement are challenges for this team.

Field hockey W - A team with performance success at the inter-university level and with the progression of team members to the Olympic level. However, there remain challenges with relation to community engagement, donor support, and partnerships.

Golf – M/W (two teams) – These teams have delivered strong competitive success with excellent commitment from alumni and partners to the golf endowment fund. Strong relationships with nearby facilities make for a quality training environment for student-athletes. Due to the nature of the sport and its competition, there are some challenges in developing broader community engagement. This team was supported by a strong Stage 2 proposal.

Ice Hockey – W – A team that delivered considerable strides in success last year and was competitive in Canada West this season as well. Women's ice hockey is also of strategic importance to UBC and to the CIS, having been selected to be the focus of a new pilot. The team has excellent pathway opportunities with the potential to develop national team members, with Hockey Canada strongly supporting the new pilot. Community engagement, academic success and donor support are areas for improvement.

Rowing – M/W (two teams) – A team with strong performance success, particularly with the progression of team members to the Olympic level. Donor support and facilities are excellent. Community engagement may be difficult to achieve with limited opportunities for spectators.

Rugby M - A team with strong tradition and donor support, men's rugby at UBC has enjoyed a new level of competitive success this season through their "Return to Excellence" initiative. There is scope for improvement across the remaining criteria, but there is a new partnership in place with Rugby Canada to drive further competitive success and pathway opportunities, and focused efforts on community engagement to develop the spectator front.

Soccer M – A team with exceptional inter-university success at UBC. Due to the structure of soccer for men in Canada, there are significant limitations on pathway progression at national/international levels. There are opportunities for further donor support and community engagement.

Soccer W – This is a team with considerable potential to deliver against the criteria. The stage 2 proposal identified an opportunity to implement a new standard of delivery for the team’s student-athletes which, when achieved, would deliver against the criteria and support the program for consideration for placement in the high-performance and national team pathway. There is scope for improvement in donor support and community engagement.

Track & Field – M/W (two teams) – As above for cross country.

HYBRID FUNDING VARSITY

Three of the teams in this category face substantial challenges in meeting the criteria, and their plans for moving forward will require significant or primarily external funding and, in some cases, substantial changes to their model in order to continue as UBC Varsity. The fourth team is Baseball, which has proposed a new model for their sport, which will also require external funding and support.

The Department will work with these teams to further develop their proposals and identify alternative external funding mechanisms to ensure the teams’ sustainability.

Baseball – A strong team that has delivered quality student-athlete opportunities in a relatively short period. A new model was in development before the review process started, to create a new summer inter-university league with income generating and community building initiatives. The department would like to work with baseball on their strong Stage 2 proposal which includes the creation of a new indoor training facility and an enhanced outdoor baseball stadium.

Field Hockey M - A team with performance success, particularly when featuring the progression of team members to the Olympic level. However, the team faces significant challenges with regard to community engagement and competition structure.

Ice Hockey M - This team has faced challenges in delivering competitive success at the inter-university level. Because of the way in which men's hockey is structured in Canada, there are limitations on the impact that a university team can have on the pathway to the national and highest professional levels. There are opportunities for improvements in academic success, further donor support and community engagement. These have been identified through the Stage 2 submission and the Department will work in partnership with the men’s team and hockey community to explore the viability of the plan and take next steps. Progress against plans will be revisited in one year’s time.

Rugby W – This team has had excellent academic success; however it is not currently delivering against the other criteria when compared with other teams. Despite past challenges, the potential for the team to make significant gains is recognized, particularly with inclusion in CIS and the opportunities for synergies in preparing for the 7s game at the international level. A partnership with the men’s team and new donor funding has been proposed and the Department will work with the team and funders to accelerate progress going forward.

Competitive Clubs

These teams were identified as being unable to sufficiently address the five criteria to remain as Varsity, and were recommended for competitive club status.

This is a new strand in the UBC sport model which will be supported by investments such as a club manager, student leadership opportunities, free access to UBC space during non-prime time, and coaching honorariums. When being considered against all five criteria, these teams deliver within a competitive club range.

Alpine Skiing M/W (two teams) - This team has achieved a good student athlete experience with excellent academic success. Areas of challenge include the strength of the league, the pathway for competitive athletes, community support and partnerships. While the assessment team commends the alumni, student-coaches and student-athletes for their dedication to the sport, they did not feel the team should be supported as varsity going forward. The Managing Director subsequently made this recommendation to the VP, Students, and this recommendation was upheld.

Nordic Skiing M/W (two teams) - This team has achieved a good student athlete experience with excellent academic success. Areas of challenge include the strength of the league, the pathway for competitive athletes, community support and partnerships. While the assessment team commends the alumni, coaches and student-athletes for their dedication to the sport, they did not feel the team should be supported as varsity going forward. The Managing Director subsequently made this recommendation to the VP, Students, and this recommendation was upheld.

Softball - This team has been challenged by a lack of conference for quality competition and facility issues. These two issues –facilities and league- mean that students travel frequently with a very condensed schedule, and have been unable to host home games. These factors, combined with a lack of community engagement and partnerships, means that softball does not currently deliver as strongly against the breadth of the criteria when compared with other varsity teams. While the assessment team commends the alumni, coaches and student-athletes for their dedication to the game, they did not feel the team should be supported as varsity going forward. The Managing Director subsequently made this recommendation to the VP, Students, and this recommendation was upheld.