

S/M/5.001|2-20|

## MANDATE

### MSU Support of Seanad Reform

Submitted by: Liam Cosgrove (Active Citizenship Senator & L.E.A.D. Caucus Leader)

Seconded by: The L.E.A.D. Caucus including Aoife Hynes (Green Campus Senator), Anna Travers (Social Sciences Faculty Assembly Member), Luke Buckley (Independent Senator), Michaela Waters (HEAR Senator), David Dyksy (Societies Council Member) Cáit McGovern (Campus Life Senator), Aaron Thornton (Clubs Council Member), Joseph Monahan (Science & Engineering Faculty Assembly Member), Aoife Deegan (Community Senator), Laura Flood (Study Abroad & Erasmus + Senator), Cara McMahan (First Year Senator), Ló Boyle (LGBT+ Senator), Jordan Quinn (Independent Senator), Alexandra McKenna (Science & Engineering Faculty Assembly Member), Louis McCabe (Science & Engineering Faculty Assembly Member), Tina Adinga (Ethnic Diversity Senator)

#### Student Senate notes:

Seanad Éireann is the upper house of the Oireachtas, which also comprises the President of Ireland and Dáil Éireann. It is commonly called the Seanad or Senate and its members, senators. Unlike Dáil Éireann, it is not directly elected but consists of a mixture of members chosen by various methods. The Seanad acts as an important check and counter balance to the Dáil and senators from different vocational areas bring important experience to the Oireachtas.

The membership of the Seanad is made up of a number of vocational panels, 11 Taoiseach's nominees, 3 senators elected by graduates of Trinity College and 3 senators elected by graduates of the National Universities of Ireland.

#### Student Senate further notes:

The Senate has been impeded from making any real change due to the fact that the parties in government have almost always, a majority due to the 11 Taoiseach's nominees.

#### Student Senate believes:

That the way in which the Seanad is elected/appointed is inherently undemocratic and elitist. All citizens of Ireland should have a say in who represents them in the upper house of the Oireachtas.

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**Student Senate therefore mandates:**

That the stance of Maynooth Students Union is to officially support Seanad Reform and that where possible the President of Maynooth Students Union will highlight the need for reform to the student body.