

S/M/5.006|2-20|

## MANDATE

### **Lobbying for the Establishment of a Childcare Fund**

Submitted by: Ciarán Watts (VP Welfare & Equality on behalf of the Welfare & Equality Forum)

Seconded by: Kelly Rennick (MSU President)

#### **Student Senate notes:**

Previously a Childcare Fund existed within the Maynooth Students' Union facilitated through the VP Welfare & Equality's budget. Due to budget cuts and lack of engagement this fund was removed without student consultation.

#### **Student Senate notes with concern:**

The difficulty that can be faced by students who are parents or carers in finding affordable childcare to avail of during their studies. This can lead to difficulty in engaging in course material and adds unnecessary stress onto the already difficult challenge of balancing personal and university life.

#### **Student Senate believes:**

That the role of the Students' Union should not be one of providing direct financial support to students, but rather to be a lobbying force on behalf of students to secure funding from the University and other bodies to support students. The fund previously offered by Maynooth Student's Union was more restrictive than other university funds due to it being a part of the VP Welfare and Equality's budget. If this fund was offered by the University these restrictions would not be needed and the fund would be more accessible for students, increasing engagement with the fund.

#### **Student Senate therefore mandates:**

The VP Welfare & Equality to look into the feasibility of a Childcare Fund being established within the Student Services department from university funds, to be distributed to student parents and carers who must pay for childcare as a result of their engagement in their studies.

Should the VP Welfare & Equality deem the establishment of a Childcare Fund be feasible the VP Welfare & Equality and the President of the SU are to lobby Maynooth University for the implementation of such a fund.