

S/M/S4.009|2-19|

MANDATE

Menstrual Health, Sanitary Products, & Sanitary Disposal Units

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

Seconded by: DARE Senator (Gavin Fanning)

Student Senate notes:

- That the sanitary products (including products such as, but not limited to, tampons and pads) currently available on the campus of Maynooth University (MU) are, despite being essential for many students, unaffordable to many and are often also of an inadequate quality.
- That many students suffer from the very real issue of period poverty and that Maynooth Students' Union (MSU) should act to the best of its ability to aid MU students affected by period poverty.
- That at this current juncture it is not financially feasible for MSU to provide an unlimited supply of free sanitary products to all those students who require them, but that MSU should take an alternative action in lieu of free provision to assist students negatively affected by the current price and quality of sanitary products available on campus.
- That there is sometimes misinformation and/ or a lack of clarity surrounding the issue of menstrual health and that MSU should act to remedy this through its communication with MU students and through its campaigns.

Student Senate therefore mandates:

- That all previous mandates relating to sanitary products be replaced by this mandate that consolidates all such related issues.
- That MSU, primarily through the actions of the Vice President Welfare and Equality, actively promotes accurate and helpful menstrual health information; the aforementioned Officer is mandated to include such information (to a reasonable extent) in the annual MSU Fresher's Guide and as part of various relevant campaigns throughout the academic year.
- That the Vice President Welfare and Equality maintains a limited store of free sanitary products in that Officer's office; these products must be of a reasonably sufficient quality (examples may include tampons with applicators, pads with wings and products of different strengths to account for different flow rates). The availability of such products must be reasonably well advertised to students throughout the year.
- Where possible, the VP Welfare and Equality to investigate the feasibility of the supply of environmentally friendly sanitary products.
- That the Vice President Welfare and Equality lobbies the university for the provision and maintenance of machines that distribute reasonably affordable and reasonably high-quality sanitary products, in every female and gender-neutral bathroom across campus. Such machines must be accompanied by sanitary disposal units of a reasonably sufficient quality. These should be prioritised in the higher footfall areas of the university.
- The Vice President Welfare and Equality will include information around Menstrual Health in all Sexual Health campaign weeks.

S/M/S4.009|2-19|

- The Vice President Welfare and Equality will lobby for the introduction of free access to sanitary products, to be resourced by the HSE.

This motion repeals the mandate “Menstrual Health, Sanitary Products, & Sanitary Disposal Units”