

S/M/S4.021|E1-19|

MANDATE

Submitted by: MSU President, Ms Katie Deegan
Seconded by: VP Welfare & Equality, Mr Ciarán Watts

The Introduction of Charges to Maynooth University Student Health Centre

Background:

The Maynooth University (MU) Student Health Centre (SHC) is an acute care and advisory service providing General Practitioner (GP) and Nursing Care for day-to-day medical and mental health issues. There is a high demand for clinical services during term time. The SHC has seen a growth in students presenting with mental health issues, with approximately 25% of the GP consultations delivered in 2018/19 academic year were for mental health.

On Thursday 12 December 2019 the MU Vice-President Academic, Registrar & Deputy President (VPA) met with the MSU President and the MSU VP Welfare & Equality to discuss the increase demand for and resource needs of the MU SHC.

Issue

The MU SHC currently offer free GP and nurse led clinics to students. However there are charges for the following services:

- Bloods - € 20
- Ear Syringing - €10
- Lost Scripts - €10
- STI Screening - €20
- Pregnancy Test - €10
- Dressing - €10
- Injection - €10

MU SHC are under increasing pressure due to increased demand and students on waiting lists to see the GP and/or counsellor. MU need to expand the SHC services in order to accommodate the increased demand.

MU has attempted to recruit a psychiatrist twice and have not been successful. However MU recognize the universities need to provide more mental health support on campus. With that they have decided to put out a tender for a psychiatric nurse and a mental health support worker.

In addition to this, the current GP service tender is almost up and the current provider has indicated that they will not be seeking to renew their on-campus service.

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Seeing to address these issues, the VPA proposed the:

1. Introduction of a Mental Health Support Worker to the SHC (filled by a psychiatric nurse or a nurse who has worked in a community mental health role)
2. Increase in GP time from 1 FTE to 1.5FTE.

The VPA has stated that there is no scope in any MU operational to facilitate the additional GP time but has outlined that the increase in GP time from 1 FTE to 1.5FTE could be covered by one of two options:

The introduction of a €10 charge / flat fee to all students who are attending the SHC

The increase of the student levy by €10

As I do not believe that it is appropriate to increase the student levy (which is a levy for capital developments and their associated costs rather than operational levy) I am not putting the option to increase the student levy by €10 to MSU Student Senate.

Options

▪ Option A

MSU supports Maynooth University in its decision to introduce a €10 charge to finance the increased resources sought for the Maynooth University Health Centre.

▪ Option B

MSU does not support Maynooth University in its decision to introduce a €10 charge to finance the increased resources sought for the Maynooth University Health Centre, on the basis that the charge would add undue financial strain to students and that students should not have the responsibility of footing the bills of the university in relation to student support.

The Student Senate therefore mandates the MSU President to lobby the University to not introduce a €10 charge to finance the increased resources sought for the Maynooth University Health Centre.

The Student Senate further mandates the MSU President to, if the case arises that the University introduces the €10 charge, lobby the University to give Maynooth Students' Union oversight on the usage of the €10 charge and to lobby for the reversal of the €10 charge.

Request:

That the MSU Student Senate decide on Option A or Option B, as outlined above.

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Notes:

Out of six Universities consulted with. Four have charges for consultations in their SHC

Institution	Charges for Consultation
TCD	Yes
UCD	Yes
UCC	No
DCU	Yes
UL	Yes
NUIG	No