

S/M/S4.041|6-20|

MANDATE

MSU Position on Publicly Funded Education

Submitted by: Seán Masterson (Independent Senator)

Seconded by: Nicole Carr (HEAR Senator)

Student Senate notes:

MSU, alongside USI and many other organisations in the coalition for publicly funded higher education, have been campaigning for publicly funded higher education for years.

Student Senate further notes:

The Cassells report that was released in July 2016 made the case for increased investment in Higher Education. This report outlined 3 methods of funding the higher education system which were:

- Increasing the Student contribution charge and the government input significantly
- Predominantly state funded model (Publicly funded)
- Income contingent loan schemes

MSU recognises that two of these options (increased contribution and loans) would be a significant barrier to those accessing higher education. We believe that education should be accessible to all regardless of socio-economic status, therefore, we must adopt the publicly funded model.

The Indecon report released on the 4th of April 2019 significantly bolstered the need for increased funding in higher education. This report showed how the University sector is contributing nine-billion euro into the economy based on the one-billion-euro investment it receives.

The government will be faced with a decision sooner or later as the higher education system is crumbling around us. We must ensure the government pick the option that will not see people facing more barriers. We must adopt the publicly funded model to higher education.

Student Senate believes:

The Irish higher education system should be publicly funded.

Student Senate therefore mandates:

The MSU Executive to campaign for publicly funded Higher Education.