

Period Poverty

Student Council Notes

Given the current Cost-of-Living crisis within Ireland (and abroad), attending a HEI (Higher Education Institution) is becoming increasingly unaffordable; the cost of accommodation, transport and fees is pushing education back towards being a 'privilege' that only the affluent can afford. Additional 'hidden costs' within TU Dublin, such as a lack of access to free period products, further alienate the most disadvantaged students across all sites.

Student Council Further Notes

Student numbers in TU Dublin have dropped significantly in the past academic year (22/23), which the Union believes can be attributed to a poor student experience and consequently poor retention rate. The Union therefore believes that initiatives such as free period products across TU Dublin will help improve how view students view TU Dublin (i.e. improve its damaged reputation).

Student Council Understands

Other HEI's across Ireland have achieved success in this area to varying degrees i.e. some HEI's have fully funded access to period products, others have agreed to 'collaborations' with their Students' Unions, and some have received sponsorships.

Student Council therefore Mandates

The VP for Welfare & Equality (in conjunction with the Part-Time Officer for Gender Equality) to lobby the University to achieve the goal of Free Period Products across all bathrooms in TU Dublin (not just bathrooms deemed 'female'). These lobbying efforts must include:

- Present a research document to Council outlining how other HEI's have achieved success, to what degree, and subsequent recommendations for TU Dublin SU
- Bring a proposal for free period products to the Student Experience Committee, the EDI sub-committee of Governing Body, and to the Director of EDI in TU Dublin
- Draft an open letter to the University (should the previous two steps fail) expressing the importance of free period products and comparisons to other HEI's

Student Council further Mandates

The VP for Welfare & Equality (in conjunction with the Part-Time Officer for Gender Equality) to implement additional actions (whether generated by themselves or Council), should the above lobbying methods fail, in order to achieve free period products across TU Dublin.

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