



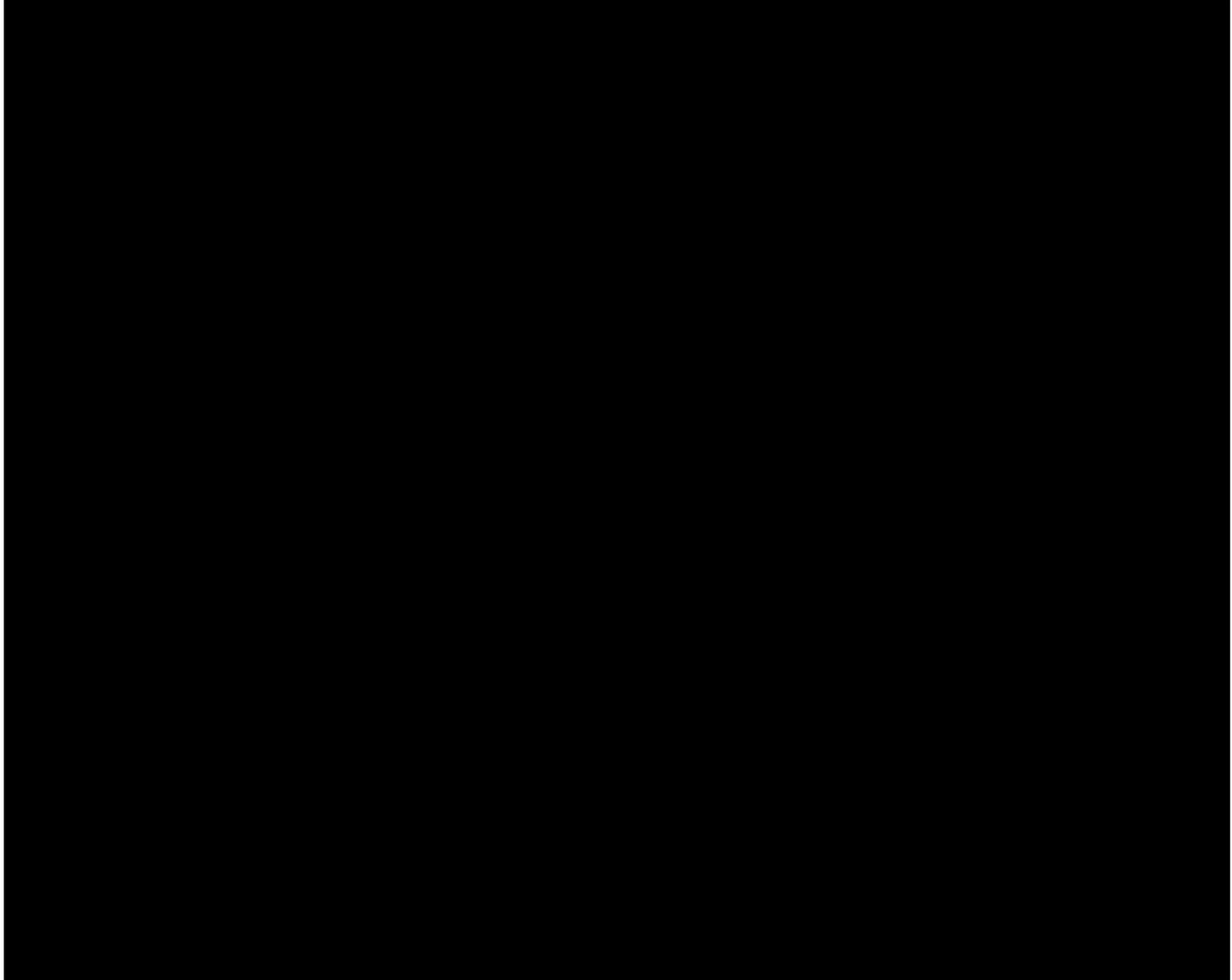
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Off with the Universities! – Students' Unions Nationwide Condemn HEA Guillotine

László Molnárfi <molnarfl@tcd.ie>

12 July 2022 at 05:35

To: Gisèle Scanlon TCDGSU <president@tcdgsu.ie>



Dear Sir or Madam,

Please see the story listed below about students' unions across Ireland condemning the government guillotining the Higher Education Authority Bill 2022 which will be very bad for third-level institutions.

Off with the Universities! – Students' Unions Nationwide Condemn HEA Guillotine

Date: 12th of July 2022

Students' unions across Ireland are speaking out against the government rushing the Higher Education Authority Bill 2022 through the joint Houses of the Oireachtas before the two month long summer recess.

The HEA will change the management structures of universities nationwide including Trinity College Dublin, the NUIs and the Technological Universities. Fianna Fáil Senator Malcom Byrne said that it had been “50 years” since such an influential piece of legislation on this issue was put before the Houses of the Oireachtas. All six university senators including Senator Michael McDowell and Senator Rónán Mullen opposed the Bill.

During a second stage debate in Seanad Éireann, Minister Simon Harris said, “I am here to engage in good faith. It will take the time that it takes, and we will work our way through it. I would not be so rude, as a member of the Lower House, to try to tell the Upper House how to do its business.”

The Bill was later guillotined along with the Electoral Reform Bill 2022, which brings about significant changes to Ireland’s electoral system.

In a letter to the Minister Simon Harris, Students’ Union representatives said, “We sat and watched as 326 proposed amendments were reduced to 6, with none of them accepted by Minister Harris. The debate that defines the future of third-level education for decades to come in Ireland was cut short, with no input taken onboard. We believe this to be disgraceful behaviour by Minister Harris — not to mention a promise broken.”

They continued to say, “The dishonesty and conduct of the government — in particular, Minister Harris...marks a new low in policy-making for students and staff across the country.”

The full letter to the government can be seen by accessing the following [link](#).

ENDS

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me. Students’ union representatives and their staff are also available for interviews in either English or Irish.

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In solidarity,

László Molnárfi

Students 4 Change

Chairperson



is an alliance of Marxist and Anarchist students from Trinity College Dublin focused on the housing crisis in relation to student accommodation, Irish neutrality, SU reform and other matters of student politics. Go on our website students4change.eu, follow us on social media or email us at contact@students4change.eu!