

University staff union recommends "Yes" on pay but reserves right to invoke review clause

5 October 2008

The Irish Federation of University Teachers has "with reluctance" recommended a "Yes" vote by its members to the new national pay agreement. A meeting of the organisation's Executive in Dublin on Saturday (4 October) voted in favour of the deal, in view of the importance of providing certainty for education and students as well as the broader economy in the current critical economic climate.

"In recent years university teachers and researchers have offered very considerable flexibility in accepting ever greater workloads. The issue of pay will be reviewed again in the context of allocations to Education in the forthcoming Budget and the pressure under which our members are expected to do their job," IFUT General Secretary, Mike Jennings, said.

IFUT will use the clause of the agreement which provides for a total review of the benchmarking process as a mechanism to pursue productivity claims in recognition of the massive additional workload taken on by university staff over the past decade, he says.

"The decision of the Executive to recommend in favour of the current pay deal has been taken with reluctance in the context of the national interest at this time. We expect that the government will respond positively when current economic difficulties have been overcome. IFUT will factor in any current concessions on pay and the 11-month pay pause in 2008 when evaluating its response to pay proposals that emerge in the next round of pay talks," Mike Jennings said.

ENDS

For further information on this press release please contact:

John Gallagher, John Gallagher Consulting. Tel: (087) 936 9888;
Mike Jennings, General Secretary, IFUT. Tel: (087) 677 6747.