



**Cónaidhm Éireannach na Múinteoirí Ollscoile
Irish Federation of University Teachers**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

**UNIVERSITIES PAID ALMOST €900 000
TO IBEC IN 4 YEARS**

6 February 2010

The seven Irish universities paid IBEC €874 083 between 2005 and 2008.

These contributions are in addition to the costs of substantial, well-staffed Human Resources Departments. In addition, it should be noted that the State, through the Labour Relations Commission and the Labour Court, provides a **free** service for the resolution of disputes between employers and employees.

Despite this duplication of costs, whereby universities employ substantial numbers of HR staff and then go on to pay IBEC 'for advice', the universities also routinely incur massive legal costs for the hire of lawyers to deal with employees.

The following legal costs were incurred purely in respect of dealings with employees or ex-employees:

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| TCD (2008) | €480 300 |
| UCC (2008) | €900 169 |
| UL (2007) | €300 445 |
| DCU (2007) | €476 506 |
| NUIG (2007) | €247 794 |
| NUIM (2008) | €199 835 |
| UCD (2008) | € 94 714 |

“IFUT has expressed serious concern over recent years that universities are using needlessly expensive legal teams to deal with industrial relations matters. Not only does this involve huge avoidable cost to the university – money which could be better used elsewhere – but also, we believe, there is an element of trying to intimidate staff against raising grievances even of a relatively simple nature.

“They are being let know that they will face a barrage of lawyers at the other side of the table,” said Mike Jennings, General Secretary of IFUT.

“We in IFUT would be less than human if we did not get some satisfaction from the fact that, despite these high-flyer, expensive lawyers which the universities now routinely hire to oppose us, we continue to win almost all cases which we pursue on behalf of our members – and it doesn’t cost the members a penny!”

- ENDS -

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