



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

MEDIA RELEASE

Vulnerable staff being targeted, warns IFUT

21 April 2012

The most vulnerable university staff are increasingly seeing their jobs threatened as university managements seek to breach the provisions of the 2003 Fixed-Term Work Act, Mike Jennings, General Secretary of the Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT), stated in his address to delegates at their 2012 Conference in Dublin today (Saturday, 21 April 2012).

“In our Annual Report we refer to no less than 15 separate cases in the last year alone where IFUT has had to fight and fight again to defend rights given to us under the 2003 Act. Other cases are in the pipeline while yet others have since been resolved.

“It is most disturbing that, while the Department of Education and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform have been warned explicitly and repeatedly regarding the amount of taxpayers’ money being spent to circumvent the 2003 Act, there seems to be, at the very least, tacit approval for the actions of universities on this issue”, he said.

“Employers will extend such low standards of treatment to all if they get away with it in one area, and in some cases our employers have already targeted Lecturers and Librarians for compulsory redundancy and unequal treatment.

“Despite all the promises given to induce us to concede massive productivity under ‘Croke Park’, the reality is that job insecurity and the threat of redundancy stalks the Higher Education Sector today”, Mike Jennings said.

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For further information on this media release, please contact:

Mike Jennings,
General Secretary,
Irish Federation of University Teachers,
11 Merrion Square,
Dublin 2.
Tel: (01) 661 0910
(087) 677 6747
E-mail: GeneralSecretary@ifut.ie

John Gallagher,
John Gallagher Consulting.
Tel: (087) 936 9888