

Researchers sign co-operation agreement with IFUT

IRSA-IFUT deal expected to lead to close co-operation in higher education

20 April 2012

The Irish Research Staff Association (IRSA) announced that its representatives will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Irish Federation of University Teachers on Saturday, 21 April.

Dr. John Walsh, Chairperson of the Irish Research Staff Association, welcomed the agreement as a major advance for researchers.

“At a time of economic crisis, the role played by researchers in higher education, innovation and national recovery is even more vital than before. This agreement ensures that researchers will have the collective support and protection of a trade union. We are very confident that through co-operation with IFUT we can ensure that the voice of researchers is heard more effectively than ever.”

The memorandum provides for the representation of researchers by IFUT on industrial relations and contractual issues, including pay and protection of employment – areas where IFUT has established a strong record in recent years.

IRSA will maintain its distinctive character as a representative network for researchers and will continue to take the lead in representing researchers on career development and research policy issues.

Dr. Walsh commented that the agreement would benefit the higher education sector as a whole by enhancing the status of researchers within the academic community.

“In the last four years researchers have been hit by the pension levy and public sector pay cuts, all the while being denied the usual benefits of the public service – permanence and long-term pension security. All we ask for is consistency and equality of treatment. Researchers deserve fairness in their jobs and careers. This agreement is a major step forward,” he said.

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