

## **IFUT backs student demands for adequate funding of education**

*October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

The Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT) has strongly supported the Rally held today (Wed. Oct 8<sup>th</sup>) by the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) seeking protection of student maintenance grants, a government commitment not to introduce student loans or graduate tax and provision of purpose-built student accommodation facilities.

Mike Jennings, General Secretary of IFUT said that USI's demands must be responded to by government in a positive manner, because "a well-funded and well-resourced system of higher education is an essential component of a healthy economy."

He said that "the only fair and sustainable funding system for higher education is public financing, with monies provided through a progressive taxation system.

"Education is a public good. A vibrant higher education sector is an essential prerequisite for the development of a well-balanced, outward-looking and healthy society.

"Students, college staff and trade unions working jointly with other civil society organisations can highlight more effectively the central role education plays in the development of Irish society," Mike Jennings said.

ENDS

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