

# **RESOLUTIONS RE FEES**

## **1976 - 2014**

**1976**

### **Student Fees & Grants**

That this AGM reaffirms the general principles expressed in IFUT previous policy statements on student fees and grants but recognises that recent economic developments necessitate a fundamental re-examination of the issues involved. Accordingly, this AGM instructs the incoming Council to draw up a detailed and realistic policy on student fees and grants and to make direct representations to the appropriate authorities, including the Minister for Education, once such a policy has been developed.

**1984**

### **Postgraduate Awards**

This ADC believes that the level of grants for postgraduate students in third-level education is totally inadequate even in comparison with the grant received by undergraduate in receipt of County Council award and deplores the fact that postgraduate awards are available only in the science and engineering areas. This ADC notes that this situation is worse than in any other State in the European Community and calls upon IFUT Council to lobby within the Trade Union movement and the members of the Oireachtas to improve the financial support of postgraduate students.

### **Research Funding**

This ADC of IFUT deplores the continued under-financing of research and development in third-level institutions in Ireland. It welcomes the efforts made by government agencies to promote co-operative research and development projects with Irish industry but believes the policy of only funding applied projects in certain subject areas to be short-sighted and detrimental to the development of the State. This ADC calls upon IFUT Council to seek discussions with government agencies, ICTU, CII and FUE so that the value of research whether basic or applied in third-level institutions is appropriately supported.

### **University Education and Fees**

The Federation reaffirms its commitment to the aim of providing university education for all who are able and willing to benefit from it regardless of their financial situation and calls for reduction in fees for students.

**1986**

### **Post-Graduate Support**

That the ADC condemns the decision of the Government to rescind financial support for post-graduate students in Science and Engineering and calls on the Government to institute an alternative scheme of financial support for post-graduate study in all disciplines.

**1987**

### **Cutbacks**

That this ADC views with alarm the recent and proposed cutbacks in Government funding for third-level education and calls on the Government to reconsider these proposals on the basis of their effects on the economic and technological, cultural and social development of the country and their effects on the employment prospects of Irish graduates internationally. This ADC calls on the university establishments to defend the interests of higher education and the necessity for Irish society of academic freedom and university autonomy. The ADC calls on IFUT to sustain a vigorous campaign to oppose cutbacks.

**1988**

### **Cutbacks**

That this ADC views with alarm the recent cuts in the estimates for basic Medical Research.

### **Postgraduate Research**

Postgraduate research has never been adequately supported in our universities. Funding is woefully insufficient, despite the welcome Eolas grants in Science and Technology. This is leading to an erosion of postgraduate research and to an inability of the system to restock itself. IFUT calls on both the Government and university authorities to treat the question of graduate study in all faculties and the renewal of staff as a matter of the utmost seriousness.

**1989**

### **Funding for Post-Graduate Research in Universities**

ADC notes the dearth of funds for post-graduate research in our Universities relative to that available in other EC states. The training of post-graduates is important for society generally but, specifically for third-level education, unless there is a well supported scheme of post-graduate education in all the disciplines our third-level institutions will be unable to restock themselves with suitably prepared staff and will decline in quality. Given the age structure of University staff at the moment post-graduate education is an urgent necessity and ADC asks incoming Council to initiate discussions with the Minister for

Education about the establishment of such a scheme.

### **Investment in Universities**

That in the light of demographic projections over the next decade and changing national needs, IFUT calls on the Government to increase investment in the university sector.

**1993**

### **Research Funding**

IFUT condemns the government cut in the provisions for funding research in the universities and urges that it be rescinded.

**1995**

### **Funding of Higher Education**

IFUT, *noting* that the section on the funding of Higher Education in the White Paper is confined to ten lines which refer primarily to the extension of the unit-cost funding system, and *noting* that the White Paper accepts as fundamental:

- (i) a projected growth in numbers participating at Third-Level; and
- (ii) an increasing diversity in the composition of the student body, condemns

a) the decrease in real terms from 1975 to 1995 of the amount expended per capita; and

b) the total failure of the White Paper or the Interim Report of the HEA TWG Report on the Future Development of Higher Education to address the issue of adequate funding and resourcing of either the existing system or of the proposed and diverse expansion and CALLS UPON the Executive to prepare a policy of non-co-operation with the proposed expansion unless the question of adequate resourcing is immediately addressed.

**1996**

### **University Education to the Less Advantaged Sectors**

IFUT urges the Irish Government to take real steps to support by adequate resourcing to achieve the opening of university education to the less advantaged sectors of our community.

**2009**

### **Higher Education Funding/Tuition Fees**

IFUT notes with serious concern the financing crisis facing our higher education system, in particular our universities.

At the same time, IFUT notes that the statements from the Minister for Education regarding the reintroduction of undergraduate tuition fees have all been made in the context of cutting public expenditure. Therefore, it appears

that fees are more likely to be a substitute for State investment in higher education rather than a top-up to it.

IFUT is concerned that such an approach would make it even more difficult for universities to secure adequate funding, primarily because the State will have passed its responsibility for funding this vital national service on to the shoulders of individuals and their families.

We are concerned at the implications such a move would have for the privatisation of education and how this could lead to education's inclusion in a future GATS process.

Philosophically, we do not see education as a commodity to be purchased but rather as a vital ingredient in the social, cultural and economic life of the nation.

IFUT joins with our Teacher Union colleagues together with the wider trade union movement in Ireland and internationally in calling for education to remain free at the point of delivery. At the same time we are open to examining funding models which protect our higher education system without damaging its ethos or adversely affecting participation levels which remain at unacceptable levels.

**2010**

### **University Funding**

This ADC mandates the Executive to continue to highlight the underfunding of our universities and higher education generally.

We note that universities are more and more forced to rely on private funding and the recent controversy regarding so-called grade inflation illustrates that private companies will not hesitate to use their influence to interfere in academic affairs.

If private businesses genuinely wish to assist financially in the funding of higher education without interfering with the integrity of academic standards or diluting Academic Freedom, they could demonstrate their good intentions by asking for a set percentage of corporate taxes to be ring-fenced for higher education.

**2012**

### **Investment in Higher Education**

IFUT believes that while it is a source of pride that we have higher than ever participation levels in higher education it is also a source of concern that the underfunding of the Sector must inevitably threaten the quality of the education that these students experience.

A lack of political will to find the financial resources necessary to fund our Higher Education Sector adequately will lead inexorably not just to an undermining of standards but also

will restrict participation rates including at second-chance and adult education levels.

This ADC therefore calls upon the Minister for Education to fight harder to get his Government colleagues and the Troika to recognise higher education as an investment and to finance it accordingly.