

SIPTU academics at NUI Galway to debate discrimination across all aspects of the University

The Shop Stewards Committee of the academic section of SIPTU at NUI Galway has issued the following statement:

“Our members have noted the recent decisions of the Equality Tribunal in the Sheehy Skeffington and Dempsey cases as well as the results of the HEA survey on gender balance and the very poor performance of NUIG in that survey.

Women academics, members of SIPTU at NUI Galway, have proposed a motion which calls for an emergency meeting of the union to debate discrimination across all aspects of the University. The committee is backing the motion which proposes that the University 'eliminate all facets of structural discrimination' in the institution. The emergency meeting will take place on Thursday the 8th January 2015.

Also among the proposals to be debated is a call for an external Equality Audit of all aspects of the University by independent experts who would 'hold hearings where staff may present evidence'.

SIPTU members are urging the University's Governing Authority to engage fully and openly with all relevant NUI Galway stakeholders and its Alumni to ensure that the unacceptable state of affairs in the University is rectified within an acceptable timeframe. For its part, the SIPTU NUI Galway academic section is more than willing to engage constructively in this process.

Women academics in NUIG are not alone in facing discrimination. If this is happening to women academics in a university, what are women on low and no pay facing, including other women staff on campus? Furthermore, actively and concretely addressing this issue is of concern to all staff regardless of gender.

Not only are students being denied the opportunity to learn from excellent teachers and researchers by the failure to promote women lecturers, women students in particular now know that they will face this discrimination in their future careers.”