



ICOS MEDIA RELEASE 23/5/14 Contact: Dave Moore, Communications Officer, 087 0668559

ICOS ON TODAY'S EDEN COLLEGE CREDITORS MEETING AND FIRST MEETING OF NEW TASK FORCE

Today's Eden College creditors meeting will see an attempt to ensure that a liquidator is appointed who will put the interests of students to the fore in seeking to recover hundreds of thousands of Euro in fees for tuition that students never received. Many of the students included will have booked and paid but for courses but were still outside Ireland at the time of the college's closure. However, ICOS is fully aware the start of this drawn out process will offer no fresh hope to students who are simply desperate to be back in class at the earliest time.

Dave Moore, Communications Officer for ICOS explained: "ICOS and student representatives will be attending today – carrying hundreds of student proxies – because this meeting is an important first step in what's sure to take many months to reach its final conclusion."

"It's clear that there are plenty of students who've already given up on Ireland at this stage, plenty more who, feeling desperate for a solution, have spent significant sums with other colleges so as not to miss out on getting what they had already paid for. For these students, the liquidation process can offer a little hope that not all of their money will be lost and that, long into the future, it may return to them a fraction of what they spent."

"However, for the many Eden College students who continue to await solutions after four weeks displaced from classes, the liquidation process will do nothing to resolve their most burning issues. For them, the urgency and substance of the response from the new government task force, which holds its first meeting today, will be key," concludes Moore.

The announcement of the new task force, which includes ICOS Director Sheila Power, was welcomed by the organisation with the following statement from Ms Power on Wednesday 21st May:

"ICOS of course welcomes the establishment of the task force which finally demonstrates some urgency on the Government's part to respond to the real and immediate needs of students affected by the college closures. ICOS looks forward to contributing to the task force and will work with all stakeholders to find solutions which will both protect students and help to restore Ireland's reputation as a secure destination for study."

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) is an independent organisation, founded in 1970, advocating for the rights of all international students in Ireland, whether studying in higher education, further education, in a language school or other setting.

ICOS is currently maintaining the blog <http://collegetclosures.icosirl.ie> in addition to our main website www.icosirl.ie

The Eden College creditors meeting will take place at The West County Hotel, Old Lucan Road, Chapelizod, Dublin 20 on Friday 23rd May 2014 at 12 noon.

Contrary to some reporting, neither Kavanagh College, Eden College, Irish Business School (IBS), Millennium College nor Allied Irish College were closed by the Irish authorities. In each case, the owners announced the closure of the operation and – students believe – simply walked away from their responsibilities.