

Cónaidhm Éireannach na Múinteoirí Ollscoile

Irish Federation of University Teachers

PRESS STATEMENT – 6 FEBRUARY 2009

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**IFUT REACTS TO MINISTER'S HIGHER EDUCATION
STEERING GROUP NOMINATIONS**

IFUT has reacted 'with virtual incredulity' to Minister O'Keeffe's nominations to this Steering Group.

Mike Jennings, General Secretary of IFUT, said, "It beggars belief that not one single place has been found on this Group for a serving member of the Teaching and Research staff of our Universities or Institutes of Technology. Yet there are no less than four Senior Civil Servants. Obviously the Minister wants to control the kind of advice he is to get."

"Equally, the choice of two business people together with a Chairman from Financial Services indicates that the Minister is incapable of seeing Higher Education in anything other than narrow financial terms."

"Batt O'Keeffe may be a protégé of the Taoiseach but it is clear that he does not share even nominally Mr Cowen's often stated commitment to Social Partnership."

-ENDS-

Further information:

*Mike Jennings, General Secretary,
Irish Federation of University Teachers,
11 Merrion Square,
Dublin 2.*

Tel: (01) 661 0910 and (087) 677 6747

E-Mail: ifut@eircom.net