



**Cónaidhm Éireannach na Múinteoirí Ollscoile
Irish Federation of University Teachers**

MEDIA RELEASE

IFUT comments on HEA college merger proposals

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The Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT) has demanded that any proposals from the HEA to merge structures of third-level colleges must be subject to full consultation with staff in advance of any HEA submissions to the Minister for Education.

IFUT General Secretary, Mike Jennings, said that “any new proposals must be based on educational considerations, not administrative, bureaucratic convenience.

“We must be very careful to avoid any loss of diversity in Higher Education through forced merging of 'smaller colleges' with other institutions,” he said.

“Geographic proximity to Higher Education is a major factor in access to and participation in Higher Education. Any changes must not introduce new barriers based on geographic considerations or administrative convenience,” Mike Jennings said.

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