



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

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**IFUT responds to HEA statement on greater rôle for  
private education**

20 April 2012

Responding to comments by the Chairman of the Higher Education Authority (HEA), John Hennessy, envisaging a greater rôle for private colleges in provision of higher education courses in Ireland, Mike Jennings, General Secretary of the Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT), said that it is highly disappointing that the Chair of the HEA should call for such changes with no mention of educational standards being taken into account.

“His entire motivation seems to be one of administrative and managerial convenience, rather than ensuring educational standards.

“He proposes changes in so-called ‘restrictive practices’ without any evidence whatsoever to substantiate what are alarmingly ill-informed suppositions. In fact, productivity in Irish Universities is amongst the highest in the world and has been recognised as such by numerous international studies and organisations.

“On the point of attracting foreign students, he fails to take into account issues like existing overcrowding in our colleges and also the fact that other countries do not penalise foreign students with full cost fees”, Mike Jennings said.

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