

## **IFUT proposes unprecedented joint management-union response to education cuts**

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The General Secretary of the Irish Federation of University Teachers, Mike Jennings, has called on university managements to work with IFUT and other employee representative bodies in the sector to present a strong and comprehensive response and resistance to the cuts proposed in last week's McCarthy/An Bord Snip Nua Report.

"In view of the crisis now facing our sector, I am proposing that the Heads of Irish Universities and all those in senior management in education unite with IFUT and other employee bodies in education, to work together to defend the entire sector," Mr Jennings said.

The proposal to abolish 2000 jobs in the third-level sector and 7000 education posts overall, if implemented, will have the effect of decimating the education system and will destroy Ireland's reputation for having a highly-educated population and workforce. At a human level, it will deprive all our children of the right to an adequate education and consign our young people to an even more uncertain economic future, he said.

"It is simply not acceptable, as suggested in some government quarters, that the recommendations of the McCarthy Report be implemented as proposed. While it is clear that cuts in overall government expenditure are required and, indeed, while further savings and efficiencies may be possible in education, it would be lunacy to simply implement the swinging cuts proposed for education, regardless of the consequences.

"It would be disastrous if, for instance, individual universities under severe financial and staffing pressures, were to take unilateral initiatives on this crisis. It is only through a common and united approach by all those who wish to preserve the very fabric of our education system that we will overcome the current challenges facing us.

"For its part, IFUT will be immediately engaging with the other teachers' unions and is anxious to meet any other groups in the sector to help establish meaningful initiatives to preserve our education system," Mike Jennings said.

ENDS.

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