



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

MEDIA RELEASE

**IFUT members vote to accept “Croke Park” after
achieving significant and substantial clarifications**

2 June 2011

Following intensive negotiations conducted over recent months with the Department of Education and Skills, members of the Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT) have voted decisively to accept the clarifications recommended to them by their Executive Committee.

The Executive had recommended a rejection of the original wording of the Croke Park deal because it felt that the proposals were too vague and open-ended and amounted to a blank cheque for their members to sign.

All of the worst possible consequences of the original proposal were addressed in negotiations with the Department and representatives of the Universities and the Executive was satisfied that the eventual outcome was the best achievable in current circumstances and was, on balance, worthy of reluctant acceptance.

“Our members were very wise not to accept the original proposal which was like being asked to buy a pig in a poke. But, by their vote today, they have indicated that the hard work put in by IFUT negotiators at national level has delivered a much less damaging and more tolerable set of proposals”, said Mike Jennings, IFUT General Secretary.

The results announced by IFUT today were as follows: 83.5% voted in favour and 16.5% voted against the clarified deal. There was a 42% turnout.

Mike Jennings said that “the margin in favour was unexpectedly high considering that IFUT members are still being asked to concede harsh and painful changes.”

“Some of these changes have the capacity to inflict serious damage to the distinctive and irreplaceable ethos of our University system unless we are extremely vigilant,” he said.

“IFUT hopes that following this vote the focus will now shift to the massive productivity savings already given quite freely and generously by our members in recent years. The result is that we have a world-class system, which is providing higher education to more students than ever before in Ireland’s history, and it is being provided with drastically reduced resources, including significant pay cuts.”

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