Headline:

Future of Ireland's technological universities still up in the air

Sub-Headline:

With the government's failure to get the Technological Universities Bill through on time, the future of Ireland's institutes of technology is still unsure as the question as to whether they should be consolidated into technological universities or not is still under debate.

Cover Photo:

https://www.wit.ie/images/made/images/uploads/Current_Students_Header_Pics/header1_(3)_950_300_c1.jpg

Body Content:

The highly political, but also underrated, issue of Ireland's institutes of technology is promising to be one of the biggest problems that the new minister of education would have to deal with after the general election.

After the global recession in 2009, several institutes of technology were merged to make extensive savings – duplicate courses were dissolved, redundant research projects cut loose – to create a "technological university". This was a measure that would create conglomerated centers of excellence while saving a lot of money. This led to the drafting of the Technological Universities Bill, which would provide a budget for the consolidation of up to 10 institutes of technology. But what do people think about this?

The responses are pretty mixed. The parents and the students, of course, are backing this move, as they think this would mean better education. The institute administrators are also ecstatic, because this would mean that their school would be recognized as a university. The lecturers? Not so much. Mergers often mean cutbacks and they're afraid this bill, which started as a cost-cutting measure, would result in ill effects on staff and the poorer students.

All in all, this proposal still needs work. The new minister of education would have their work cut out for them, that's for sure.

Sources:

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