

TEXT OF THE INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS DELIVERED BY:

MR DERMOT O'MAHONEY, on 3 June 2005, on the occasion of the conferring of the Degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa, on MICHAEL F. KELLEHER

A Sheánsailéar, agus a mhuintir na hOllscoile,

It is very appropriate to honour Michael F. Kelleher who through 38 years has given his working time to the benefit of U.C.C.'s students and staff. He has been a constant figure spanning four presidents. He has also seen the university increasing from 3500 students in 1967 to over 15,000 students in 2004/2005. He has overseen the expansion of the campus by three times during his time in U.C.C. He can be justly proud of his enormous contribution to the success of U.C.C.

His second-level education was at Sullivan's Quay C.B.S. and his academic achievements during second-level were indicators of what was to come in his third-level education. He won scholarships all through second-level culminating with a university scholarship which he declined through economic circumstances to take up. In 1958 he commenced employment in the Cork Harbour Commissioners (now Port of Cork Company) and worked there for nine years until he joined the staff of University College Cork as an administrative assistant to the secretary/bursar and in 1973 he became secretary/bursar.

His third level education was all undertaken whilst working full-time and there was no "study leave". He attended the College of Commerce at night from 1958 to 1961 and passed the final examination for the Chartered Secretaries and Administrators; The Intermediate Examination of Association of Certified Accountants with 1st place in Section I; gained a diploma in Commerce from University College Cork with First Class Honours in final examination; as well as medals and awards for Commerce, Book-Keeping and Economics in the Department of Education's examinations. In 1961 to 1963, he passed the final examinations of the Association of Certified Accountants. In 1964/1965 he passed the Chartered Institute of Transport. Finally, in 1967/1970, he received a B.A. from University College Cork through the evening degree course. To summarise, he is a fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, he has a B.A. and a Diploma in Commerce, all whilst working full-time.

Michael holds a number of company directorships through University College Cork and also the Cork Association for the Deaf Ltd of which he has been a director since 1966 and is chairman since 1971. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Honan Trust since 1980. He is a Board of Management member of St. Angela's College since 1990 and from 1992 as chairman. He has also served on committees of past pupil unions and his professional bodies.

He is recognised by his peers within the university system in Ireland and abroad as being a source of sound reasoning, expert advice and total professional dedication. This recognition is shown by his membership of the following bodies:

- Member (Founder) – University Chief Finance Officers Group
- Member (Founder) – Conference of Irish University Administration
- Membership of various Department of Education and HEA Committees and working groups
- Member – Heads of University Management in Europe
- Irish Representative – Director's Group, OECD Institutional Management in Higher Education Programmes
- Invitee at Annual Conference of British University Finance Directors Group since 1972

Michael has been a member of numerous committees within the university since 1970 and his advice; knowledge; wisdom has always been given freely and to the benefit of the university. He has also given his talents to others outside the university. His wife Kay, his daughter Aoife a medical graduate of U.C.C., his son Gary a student of arts in U.C.C., his friends and colleagues and his classmates in Sullivan's Quay are very proud of his achievements and welcome with delight and pride his recognition today.

Praehonorabilis Cancellarie, totaque universitas.

Presento vobis hunc meum filium, quem scio tam moribus quam doctrina habilem et idoneum esse qui admittatur, honoris causa, ad gradum Doctoratus in Utroque Jure, tam Civili quam Canonico, idque tibi fide mea testor ac spondeo, totique Academiae.