



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

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Radical change in institutional, public  
and political mind-set necessary,  
says Chief Executive of the Labour  
Relations Commission**

24 April 2010

A radical change in the institutional, public and political mind-set, starting at the top and percolating through all our private and public bodies, is necessary to establish a society built on the values of the common good and the common wealth as exemplified in the programme of the First Dáil, said Kieran Mulvey, Chief Executive of the Labour Relations Commission, at today's (Saturday, 24 April 2010) 2010 Annual Delegate Conference of the Irish Federation of University Teachers.

Discussing the third-level education sector, Kieran Mulvey - who was appointed the first General Secretary of the Irish Federation of University Teachers in 1975, when he was aged 24 - said: "I believe we have always placed a tremendous value on the provision of education in this country. I am not an advocate of the introduction of multinational business practices within third-level education, nor do I believe in the Professor Ed Walsh school of "edunomics" or the creation of "management clusters" around University Presidents. I believe that performance and achievement indicators are necessary and that the highest benchmarks are to be achieved. Third-level institutions are seen as centres of excellence and indeed privilege at times. They must continue to deliver on the public expectations of them.

"Irish society, its political system and its institutions of Government need reform. We have to get it into our collective national psyche that we are not down and out internationally", said Kieran Mulvey. "Amidst the potential collapse of trust, respect and confidence in what was generally accepted as the pillars of society, Irish society is

seeking to establish new standards, new values and more enduring moral, political and financial benchmarks.

"Of concern for those of us who operate in the public service milieu is the abject and almost complete failure of the "light" regulation model, deficiencies in corporate governance standards and the lack of appropriate oversight in some state institutions. We need to see more transparent and effective action by the Office of Corporate Enforcement, disciplinary action by the professional bodies and the disbarment from directorships by those who corporately approved, signed off, or oversaw and supposedly-regulated corporate and financial failures.

"A real and thorough cleansing of the Augean stables is necessary. In this recession we can change from a society of greed, the accumulation of property and wealth and a culture of 'me-féinism' to a more-inclusive and less-vacuous society, with more redeemable, tangible and shared values. The one change I would advocate is the constitutional right of the people themselves to periodically vote on matters of national interest/policy in order to inform the legislature of the will of the people. It works in other well-established jurisdictions - most notably Switzerland."

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