**McAleese /DCU Scholarship initiative to attract Northern students**

Dr Martin McAleese, husband of former President Mary McAleese, together with Dublin City University, of which Dr Martin McAleese is Chancellor, are spearheading a scholarship worth €1000 to some 40 applicants from Northern Ireland to read for a degree.

The Irish University Association, which consists of seven Southern Universities, has been engaged on the issue of Northern students entering Southern Universities.

The DCU/McAleese initiative has been the first tangible evidence of this process. NUI Galway has also undertaken moves to attract Northern Students and as we know the Provost, Dr Prendergast, currently President of IUA, has been instrumental in leading the way in Trinity.

Northern students do not pay Tuition Fees but are required to pay a Student Contribution charge of about £2,300. However moves are afoot to allow Students to take out a loan for this amount. Degree courses in Northern Ireland cost around £3,500.

Universities Ireland, on the other hand, consists of ten Universities, the seven of IUA together with UU, QUB and the OU. The Secretariat is based in the Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS). Its remit is to promote and develop cooperation between their institutions.