

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

Text of the Introductory Address delivered by **Professor Anne Scott**, National University of Ireland, Galway on 9th June, 2017 on the occasion of the Conferring of the Degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*, on **JANE GRIMSON**

A Uachtaráin, a Sheánsailéir a mhuintir na hOllscoile agus a dhaoine uaisle...

For many decades Professor Jane Grimson has worked to promote the advancement of women in Engineering and Science. A highly respected engineer and academic, she has had an illustrious career in Trinity College Dublin, where she served in a number of leadership roles including Dean of Engineering & Systems Sciences, Pro-Dean of Research, and Vice-Provost of the University.

Throughout her stellar career Prof Grimson has achieved much and received many accolades. However, perhaps one of Jane's most lasting legacies will be the hugely important role she has played as an advocate for women in engineering and science, particularly women in academia.

In her recent role as Chair of the Gender Equality Task Force at NUI Galway (completed May 2016) Professor Grimson led an in-depth and robust review of gender policy and practice in our University. The Gender Equality Task Force

Report, chaired by Professor Grimson, made a number of ground-breaking recommendations on reforms to policy and practice at NUI Galway, many of which have been incorporated into the Higher Education Authority's national review of gender equality in Irish higher education institutions.

It is widely acknowledged that these reforms will impact far beyond academia, with implications for the wider public service in Ireland.

A senior external academic member of the Task Force comments: "I was very impressed by Jane's leadership during the work of the Task Force. She listened to and took account of everyone's point of view - those on the Task Force and those who made submissions. She worked really hard throughout the period - undertaking detailed and painstaking research, preparing drafts of the report; contacting individuals and chairing every meeting with patience, good humour and even-handedness. She managed to get a huge amount of work done in a short period, while moving house at the same time! She treated everyone with the utmost respect and listened patiently and humbly to criticisms of her drafts. The fact that every member of the Task Force, without exception, was happy to sign off on the report without a murmur of dissent is an enormous tribute to her leadership and personal charisma. And the fact that the recommendations of the Máire Geoghegan Quinn report mirrored the recommendations of the Task Force report was itself an indication of the rigour and impartiality which Jane brought to her role as Chair. It was a pleasure and a privilege to be associated with Jane and with the report!"

Jane Grimson was born in Inverness, Scotland. She graduated in Engineering from the University of Dublin in 1970, followed by an M.Sc. in Computer Science from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh. She returned to Trinity in 1980, to take up a post as Lecturer in Computer Science.

She was elected Fellow of Trinity College in 1991, appointed to a Personal Chair in Health Informatics in 2003 and was awarded the O'Moore Medal in 2007 for contribution to the field of health informatics in Ireland. In addition to the many leadership roles Jane has held in TCD, from 2006 until her retirement in 2014, Prof Grimson was partially seconded to the newly established Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), initially as Director of Health Information and subsequently as Acting Chief Executive.

Jane is a chartered engineer, member and Vice President of the Royal Irish Academy (M.R.I.A.) and the Royal Academy of Engineering (F.R.Eng). She is a past-President of Engineers Ireland, the Irish Academy of Engineering, the Irish Computer Society, and the Healthcare Informatics Society of Ireland. She was a member of the Board of Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and chaired the Irish Council for Science, Engineering and Technology, was formerly a trustee of the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice, a member of the International Women's Forum (IWF) and a board member of the Health Research Board.

She has published widely in the field of database systems and health informatics and has a particular interest in Open Access Publication and the Open Science movement. As a member of the European Research Advisory Board, she led a Task Force in 2006 which recommended that the Commission should mandate all researchers funded under the then Framework Programme

to lodge their publications resulting from EC-funded research in an open access repository as soon as possible after publication. This is now a standard requirement of many research councils internationally including the European Research Council. Prof Grimson is also deeply committed to promoting the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in engineering and in research generally.

Professor Grimson was elected as the 57th Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin in 2016

For her personal commitment to promoting women in engineering and science and in driving reforms to gender equality in higher education and research I wish to present **Professor Jane Grimson**.

PRAEHONORABILIS CANCELLARIE, TOTAQUE UNIVERSITAS:

Praesento vobis hanc meam filiam, quam scio, tam moribus quam doctrina, habilem et idoneam esse quae admittatur, honoris causa, ad gradum Doctoratus in utroque Jure, tam Civili quam Canonico, idque tibi fide mea testor ac spondeo, totique Academiae