



**Students' Union**

University College Cork  
54 College Road,  
Cork, Ireland.

15ú Meitheamh 2016

Dr Michael B Murphy  
President  
University College Cork

Dear President,

I write to you to express the disappointment and shock of UCC Students' Union at the decision to name a new building on campus after Dr James Watson.

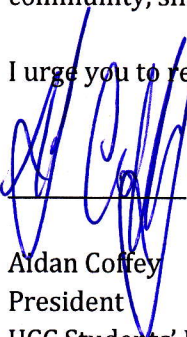
It is our opinion that a character who professed views regarding race, gender and sexuality so out of keeping with the standards and expectations of us in the University should not be recognised with one of the highest honours that this institution can confer.

Of course, exceptional scientific records and achievements should be celebrated and acknowledged in their own right and in their own sphere. The awarding of a Nobel prize should be adjudicated against the requisite scientific standard. We in UCC should set different standards for our own honours, and we have the freedom and indeed the responsibility to decide the point at which racial prejudice overshadows scientific prowess; to decide the point at which a clearly demonstrated scholarly and academic brilliance cannot excuse alienating and incompatible social view. We have reached that point.

Each and every building on our fine campus should reflect and echo an ethos of respect to which each and every student, staff member and visitor should aspire to. The naming of this building falls far short of this.

The naming process seems to be decided by a relatively small management group, with little consultation or openness. We believe a decision such as this which reflects on the entire UCC community, should involve the wider community.

I urge you to reconsider.

  
Aidan Coffey  
President  
UCC Students' Union