Welcoming Speech

by

**Prof. Dr. BORISLAV BORISOV, Honorary Rector and Rector of UNWE**

for the period 2003 – 2011

Dear Mr. Rector,

Dear colleagues,

Dear first year undergraduates,

I was very impressed by the Rector`s report and the rich in content speech of Mr. Ivan Iskrov.

A few days ago I was at a birthday party in a narrow circle. A famous Bulgarian politician and statesman with his nephew – a prospective student at the UNWE were there. We told students` memories, we talked about what we have been studied… Our friend the politician has graduated different university but respected university with traditions too. At one time his nephew said: “Dear uncle, you are a respected man in our country who shows on the TV and have an authority…Please, don`t mention the university you have graduated. You know that there is only one university and it is UNWE!” Yes, it is true although it sounds like a joke.

The book dedicated to the 90th Anniversary of UNWE was showed here. When it was still writing by our colleagues from the Economic History Department, when we placed the monument of Prof. Bobchev and when his name was in a process of restoration because it was forgotten a little but the fault wasn`t of UNWE, then at first I was impressed that since the establishment of the university in 1920 and till now there was no period of time when it wasn`t waged a devastating battle for liquidation of the university. Whether it should be eliminated at all or should be joined to the structure of other “more greedy” university is a different issue. And even during the period 1945 – 1947 the university was somewhat deprived of its figure to the level of a kind of faculty. At the same time you see that today UNWE is a business university №1 in Bulgaria, it is among the first 20 universities in Europe and among the first 50 business universities in the world unlike the other university which had taken it over and which is at the “honorary” 600th place.

I asked myself the question: What is that which urges our university to live and develop? What is that which makes it so viable? What is that in the root which urges the tree to grow permanently and to turn into a venerable oak with new and new sprouts – and this year again I mean our first year undergraduates. The answer for me is the following: This, which is enshrined in the foundation of the university, the same that was mentioned also in the Rector`s report and in the statement of Ivan Iskrov, this and how the university has been called -– it is the Freedom. But the freedom of the spirit, not the excessive freedom! The freedom of ideas but not the freedom of spiritual dissolution! The freedom to respect traditions but also to create them! The freedom of the academic tolerance! And this, which leads UNWE to the success over all these nearly 100 years I will call it an academic continuity. A continuity of the free spirit, traditions and academic tolerance, a continuity of the positive thinking and all that created good which develops now. And this, dear friends, means building up!

Today, after I have opened the academic year at our university for eight years, at today`s opening I can honestly say that the new Rector`s management in its activity observes with dignity the decade tradition in the development of the university – the tradition of continuity and new ideas about the growth of UNWE.

**Congratulations for the new academic year!**