



Amsterdam, 15 September 2015

Re: Proposed Closure of the Religion department at the University of Stirling

Dear Professor Gerry McCormac,

The European Association for the Study of Religions wishes to express its deep concern at the proposal to close a department that is highly regarded internationally and unique in Scotland as the only department of religion that is not affiliated with a theological institution.

The independent and critical study of religion and religions has never been more important than it is today, when issues relating to religion are constantly in the public domain. Institutions of higher education have a responsibility to society to provide information about religion that is based on academic standards of knowledge and which does justice to the global manifestations of religion as well as its historical and social dimensions. In recognition of this responsibility, the number of departments devoted to the study of religion has increased in European universities in recent years.

On behalf of the EASR, which represents 23 national European associations for the study of religions, we therefore respectfully ask that you may find ways to continue your support of a department that we consider a valuable asset to your university.

Yours sincerely,

Einar Thomassen  
President of the EASR

Handwritten signature of Einar Thomassen in black ink.

Marion Bowman  
Vice-President of the EASR

Handwritten signature of Marion Bowman in black ink.

Giovanni Casadio  
Vice-President of the EASR

Handwritten signature of Giovanni Casadio in black ink.

Marco Pasi  
General Secretary of the EASR

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