



September 16, 2015

To: Professor Richard Oram and Professor Gerry McCormac

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

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, an affiliated society of the International Association for the History of Religions, I am writing you to offer our support of the September 3rd statement issued by the British Association for the Study of Religion. We agree with BASR that the Stirling department has been at the forefront of critical study about religion, and that the academic and nondenominational study of religion “has a key role within higher education institutions.” Because the University of Stirling Religion Programme is the only religion department in Scotland not affiliated with a Christian denomination, it serves a unique and indispensable role in the academic study of religions. The study of religions in a global and non-confessional context remains vital today, as our BASR colleagues point out. We support their request that you reconsider the closure of Stirling’s Religion department.

Sincerely,

Sarah M. Pike
California State University, Chico
ISSRNC President

Bron Taylor
University of Florida
ISSRNC Founder and Past President
Editor, *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*

Mark Peterson
University of Wisconsin, Washington County
ISSRNC President-Elect

Kristina Tiedje
Université Lumière Lyon 2
ISSRNC Treasurer

Evan Berry
American University
ISSRNC Secretary

