



CENTRE DE RECHERCHE BRETONNE ET CELTIQUE
KREIZENN AN ENKLASKOU BREIZEK HA KELTIEK

TO: The Vice-Chancellor, Paddy Nixon

The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Alastair Adair

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research & Impact), Professor Cathy Gormley-Heenan

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Jan Jedrzejewski

The Head of Human Resources, Ronnie Magee

August 23, 2016

Dear Madam, dear Sirs,

The faculty and staff of the *Centre de Recherche Bretonne et Celtique* were dismayed to learn the news of the University of Ulster Coleraine's proposed plans to dismiss several members of the *Irish and Celtic Research Institute* (including Mr Iain MacPherson and Dr Iwan Wmffre), an institute which is universally viewed by academics around the world with the greatest respect on account of the quality of its publications and scholarly activities and productions.

For the past two years, the CRBC (*Centre de Recherche Bretonne et Celtique*, Universities of Brest and Rennes 2, Brittany, France), has developed a network of collaborations and exchanges with Celtic studies centres in Scotland (Edinburgh, Glasgow, Highlands), Wales (Aberystwyth, CAWCS, National Library of Wales) and Ireland (University College of Dublin) as well as the *Irish and Celtic Research Institute* of the University of Ulster via the intermediary of Dr. Iwan Wmffre (thanks to his competence in Breton and Welsh) and also Dr. Fomin and Dr. MacPherson. This network is the first to have existed for a very long time and we very much hope that this endeavour will lead to broader international cooperation in the future. In our view, it would be a real pity if the University of Ulster, by diminishing its number of researchers, were not able to fully cooperate in this network.

The news of the dismissals is particularly disturbing given the fact that, under the impetus of colleagues from the *School of Irish Language and Literature*, Derry, and the CRBC at the University of Western Brittany, an ERASMUS agreement was signed in 2015 linking our institutions.

This agreement allows undergraduate students, graduate students as well as doctoral students and researchers from Ulster and Brest to do advanced research in our respective domains of specialization. Despite the Brexit decision, we were hopeful that our agreement could be salvaged. We fear that this decision could further threaten future cooperation.



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Furthermore, several other collaborative projects have been undertaken by the University of Ulster Coleraine and the University of Western Brittany. A member of your faculty from Ulster has already attended two of our Summer School courses in Breton language and cultural heritage. This past June, one of the doctoral students of the Ulster's *Irish and Celtic Research Institute*, Ms. Ksenia Kudenko, also attended the most recent of our Summer School and their presence was extremely enriching to all the participants (20 scholars from over 12 nations).

Ms. Kudenko has also received a grant from our university to undertake advanced research at the CRBC, the largest institute of its kind in continental Europe. In turn, one of our own doctoral students, Mr. Tanguy Sollic, who is specializing in dialectometry, was also planning to do advanced research in Derry and is now visiting Ulster as we write. More will/would certainly follow.

In addition, we were planning to invite Ms. Kudenko, Dr. Wmffre and others of the school's members to participate in several upcoming conferences that are planned in Brest in 2017 (for instance, *Les Histoires des Bretagnes* organized by Dr. Bouget and Dr. Coumert of the CRBC).

Finally, colleagues from the School of Irish Language and Literature, including Dr. Wmffre, have several ongoing collaborative projects with the CRBC already in the works including:

- a) plans for a joint Master's degree programme that the CRBC is organizing entitled "Celtic Languages and Cultures in Contact" (project headed by Prof. German) in which Dr. Wmffre (Welsh and Breton language) and Dr. Iain MacPherson (Scottish Gaelic) were to play an important role. During the final semester of this two-year Master's degree programme, our respective students could spend six months in our universities following Irish and Scottish Gaelic courses in Ulster and Breton in Brittany.
- b) a project focussing on the research of international teams of ethnologists who did fieldwork in both Ireland and Brittany during the interwar period (project headed by Dr. Fomin with the collaboration of Prof German (Brittany) and Prof Ó Corráin (Ulster));
- c) a comprehensive project involving the collection of the oral forms of Breton place names in Celtic-speaking Western Brittany (project headed by Dr. Wmffre with the collaboration of Prof. German).
- d) a series of conferences entitled "Celtic languages and literatures in Contact" to be organized in Brest, Ulster, Aberystwyth and UCD (organized by Prof. German and members of the respective universities listed).



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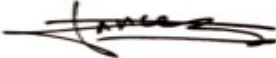
Once again, we can only repeat how disappointed we are with the decision to eliminate these posts especially considering that this decision threatens to compromise the aforementioned projects. The absence of Iwan Wmffre and Mr Iain MacPherson is detrimental in that their presence was one of the key reasons we sought to work with Ulster rather than with other universities. If this redundancy plan goes ahead, we wonder whether there will be much sense in our continued co-operation.

In addition, you will be losing some very talented and internationally respected scholars which will certainly undermine Ulster's status in the long term. I am certain that our sentiments are shared by our colleagues in the Republic of Ireland, Wales, Scotland and North America and respectfully ask that you reconsider your decision.

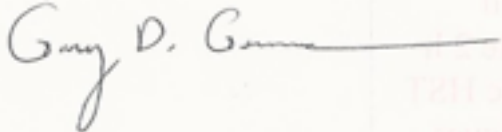
With our sincere wishes for continued collaboration with the members of the Irish and Celtic Research Institute, we remain,

Sincerely yours,

Professor Philippe Jarnoux,
Director and professor of Breton history
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Ph. Jarnoux


Professor Gary German,
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SIGNATORIES TO LETTER FROM PHD STUDENTS AND OTHER RECENT GRADUATES

Gregory Darwin, Ph.D. candidate in Celtic Languages and Literatures,
Harvard University

Deborah Furchtgott, Harvard University

Nathaniel Harrington, Ph.D. Student, University of Toronto

Mr. Adrian Doyle

Yuliya Rashchupkina, PhD Candidate, Global Governance and Human
Security, University of Massachusetts Boston

Georgia Henley in Celtic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University

Courtney Selvage, University College Cork

Sam Ó Fearraigh, MA sa Nua-Ghaeilge, OÉ Gaillimh.

Ariana Malthaner, M.Phil student, Trinity College Dublin

Florin Regli, MPhil candidate, University of Cambridge

Michaela Jacques, Ph.D student in Celtic Languages and Literatures,
Harvard University

Joseph A. Shack, Ph.D. student in Celtic Languages and Literatures,
Harvard University

Isabella Gabrovsky, Ph.D student, University of California, Santa Barbara

Heather Newton, Ph.D student in Celtic Languages and Literatures,
Harvard University

Patrick McCoy, Ph.D. candidate in Celtic Languages and Literatures,
Harvard University

Marjorie Housley, Ph.D. candidate, University of Notre Dame

Mark Laing Gibbard, M.A. Student, National University of Ireland, Galway



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Darcy Ireland, M.A. Student, Providence College

Andrea Eberle, MSc student in Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh

Trenton Whitt, MLitt, University of Glasgow, MA student, University College Cork

David Callander, PhD student, University of Cambridge.

Rebecca Thomas, PhD Student, University of Cambridge.

Stephanie Leitzel, Ph.D. student, Harvard University

Mandalyn Bonsey, Ph.D. student, University of Limerick

Juliana Roost, Ph.D. student, University of Basel

Matt Calvert, M.Sc. Marketing Management, University of Galway

Maria Zukovs, M.A. student, University of Western Ontario

Duncan Sneddon, PhD Student in Scottish History, University of Edinburgh.

Matthew Tran-Adams, Lecturer at OISE/University of Toronto

Emma Anderson, PhD Student in Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh

Ruth (Meg) Oldman, Ph.D. in English: Literature and Criticism (specific focus - Medieval Scottish Literary Nationalism), Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Màiri Britton, MScR Celtic Studies, University of Edinburgh

Erin Farley, PhD English Li, University of Stirling

Tom O'Donnell, PhD candidate, University College London

Alasdair MacCaluim, PhD, Ceiltis is Eòlas na h-Alba, Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann 2002

Iain MacIllechiar M.A. Gàidhlig is Eachdraidh, Oilthigh Ghlaschu 1975

Christopher Lewin, PhD student, University of Edinburgh.

Daniel Watson, PhD Candidate, Maynooth University



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Ceallaigh S. MacCath-Moran, Ph.D. student, Memorial University

Jody Buckley-Coogan, PhD Candidate, Queen's University, Belfast.

Ruairidh Maciver, Ph.D Student, Celtic, University of Glasgow

Cameron Wachowich, Ph.D. student, University of Toronto

Brianna Daigneault, Ph.D. student, University of Toronto

Ben Guy, Ph.D. student, Cambridge University