

# Stirling Centre for Scottish Studies

## Constitution

[Adopted April 2013]

### **1. Title**

The title of the Centre is the Stirling Centre for Scottish Studies (CSS).

### **2. Aims and Origins of the Centre**

The Centre for Scottish Studies was founded in 1998 'to promote research, publication and education in Scottish Studies, especially across the boundaries of literature, critical theory, history, media and politics'. It was envisioned as a hub for interdisciplinary contact and research within the University of Stirling, and as Stirling's platform in a wider, international network of centres conducting research into Scottish history and culture. The activities of the Centre are supported by funds donated by members of the public in 1998, expressly intended for the advancement of Scottish Studies at Stirling. The Centre aims to make productive use of this endowment on a sustainable basis – that is, to maintain and replenish its source of funding.

### **3. Membership**

Membership of the Centre is open to all Stirling-based researchers, including postgraduates, working in the general field of Scottish Studies. The Centre may also invite scholars from outwith Stirling to become honorary members of CSS.

### **4. The Honorary President**

The Honorary President of CSS is Professor Rory Watson, its founder.

### **5. Funding Requests**

CSS accepts applications for funding year-round, and will consider such requests at the next General Meeting after an application is received by the Chair.

CSS will endeavour to fund research activity consistent with its aims, on a scale proportionate to its resources, subject to five conditions:

- a) The research activity must directly involve researchers based at the University of Stirling;
- b) A report on each funded project, publication or conference should be submitted to the CSS web archive (with the support of CSS acknowledged in funded publications);
- c) CSS will only fund research of an appropriate scholarly standard, as determined by its membership;

- d) CSS funds research activity and development (publication costs, book launches, conference and project costs) and not the salaries of researchers;
- e) It is not anticipated that CSS should be the primary or 'first-choice' funder of research activity. It will be more receptive to requests where partial funding has already been secured.

Funding requests are granted or rejected by a majority vote of academic staff at General Meetings. Smaller grants may be approved separate from a General Meeting at the Chair's discretion (in consultation with the Treasurer); such grants will be reported to the next General Meeting. Larger urgent requests made 'out of cycle' with General Meetings, exceeding the Chair's discretion, should be submitted to the Chair for circulation to the entire CSS membership for discussion (via email). The outcome of such discussion will be communicated by the Chair.

## **6. Officers**

The Centre shall have a Treasurer, a web administrator, and a Chair. Other officers may be appointed if necessary, as determined by majority vote. The officers shall be elected at a General Meeting for a three-year term of office. Officers shall be eligible for re-election at the conclusion of their term of office (for a maximum of two further consecutive periods).

## **7. Quorum**

For CSS General Meetings quorum consists of at least 5 members.

## **8. General Meetings**

General Meetings of the Centre shall be held twice annually, once in each academic semester. General Meetings may be called at other times, with at least a month's notice given to all members by the Chair. All members of the Centre shall have the right to vote at such meetings.

## **9. Amendment**

Any General Meeting of the Centre may amend the constitution by a simple majority of the members, providing the meeting is quorate and that notice of the amendment proposed has been given to all members not less than one month before the General Meeting.

## **10. Dissolution**

The Centre may be dissolved by the agreement of not less than three-quarters of those present at a General Meeting specially summoned for this purpose, of which at least a month's notice must have been given to all members.