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49-R-46

A Resolution to Support Installing Comfortable Flooring and Reasonable Religious Accommodations into the Interfaith Prayer and Reflection Room in the Ohio Union

Nick Prayner (for himself, Noah Bidna, Yousef Yacoub, Vincent Liu, and Tony Buss) introduced the following resolution to the Steering Committee, where it passed.

* * *

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University, and

Whereas the expanding student body has major religious diversity with various needs, and

Whereas many religious groups on campus utilize the Interfaith Prayer and Reflection Room on the 3rd floor of the Ohio Union and sit, prostrate, and kneel for prayer and other religious activities, and

Whereas carpet in the room was taken out in the summer of 2016, which was replaced with hard wooden floors, and

Whereas undergraduate students pay a “Student Union Facility Fee” as part of their tuition, and

Whereas this facility fee helps fund the Ohio Union facility, student organization and student meeting space, and cutting-edge venues that support student programming,¹ and

Whereas students have a serious need for more comfortable flooring in the Interfaith Prayer and Reflection Room, and

Whereas students have a serious need for reasonable accommodations including but not limited to prayer mats, floor cushions, and lockers reserved for religious organizations, and

Whereas universities and colleges across the nation have provided either permanent or temporary solutions to students’ need for meditation and prayer purposes,^{2,3,4,5} and

Whereas the following organizations support putting comfortable flooring and reasonable religious accommodations in the current Interfaith Prayer and Reflection room: Native American and Indigenous Peoples Cohort, Buddhist Study and Practice Group, Ahmadiyya Muslim Students Association, Muslim Students Association, Sikh Students Association, and Christian

¹ <http://registrar.osu.edu/policies/feesexplanation.asp>

² <http://www.csc.edu/campus-life/diversity/meditation.shtml>

³ <https://oied.ncsu.edu/diversity/interfaith-prayer-meditation-space/>

⁴ <http://web.mit.edu/eventguide/cacfacilities/religious.html>

⁵ <http://asuc.berkeley.edu/eshleman/services-resources/>

41 Bible study and fellowship group;

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43 **Therefore Let it Be Resolved** the Undergraduate Student Government at the Ohio State
44 University supports installing comfortable flooring and providing reasonable religious
45 accommodations into the interfaith prayer and reflection room in the Ohio Union, to allow
46 students of all faith backgrounds to pray and participate in religious activities comfortably, and
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48 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Ohio Union Administration should consult and work with
49 various faith organizations at Ohio State when deciding religious accommodations and flooring,
50 and
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52 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Ohio Union should reconsider its policy regarding the usage
53 of the Interfaith and Prayer Room, keeping the space for prayer and religious purposes only.
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Floor Vote: Passed.

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67 Gerard Basalla

68 President

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73 Date Adopted: _____2/8/17_____

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Danielle Di Scala

Vice President

Date Terminated: _____