

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1115

TITLE: Resolution Petitioning for a Prayer Space at Marston Library and Southwest Recreational Center

AUTHOR(S): Senator Aditi Sarkar, Senator Noor Azeem, Senator Coe Leavengood

SPONSOR(S): Senator Marian Enriquez, Senator Isa Penin, Senator Abigail Whitaker, Senator Gabriela Prieto, Senator Laura J. Bryan, Senator Julia Seifer, Senator Owen Lekebusch, Senator Christian Jubran

WHEREAS, The University of Florida recognizes the importance of allowing all students to freely and efficiently practice their respective faiths on campus. The University of Florida seeks to be inclusive of all religions; and, as per the Student Activities and Involvement Constitution, in Section A. Non-Discrimination organization, “agrees that it will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age...”[1]; and,

WHEREAS, both Marston Science Library and Southwest Recreational Center do not currently have a prayer space available to use for any faiths, although there is high demand from the student body at the University of Florida; and,

WHEREAS, The University of Iowa has succeeded in their creation of a multi-faith room that “allow[s] people of different religions to practice their beliefs in a safe and culturally sensitive space”[2], which at the University of Florida, would foster much needed support for practicing religious beliefs, and,

WHEREAS, Designating a prayer space within both Marston Science Library and Southwest Recreational Center would effectively accommodate for the many students who observe prayers or practice meditation on campus; then,

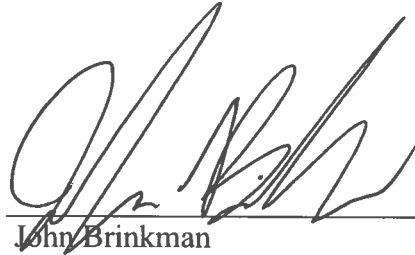
THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the establishment of a designated prayer space in Southwest Recreational Center during operating hours.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the establishment of a designated prayer space during Marston Science Library’s operating hours, which are currently 24/7 all days of the week.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Provost Scott Angle, Director of Recsports Laura Hall, Dean of University Libraries Judith Russell

[1] <https://studentinvolvement.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/21-22-SAI-Constitution-Requirements.doc>

[2] <https://spartanshield.org/33845/student-life/positive-place/>



John Brinkman
Senate President

2/16/2024
Date