

Resolution 4002-R-102511

- A resolution supporting the establishment of two special “ablution” areas, one in each gender bathroom, in the third floor bathrooms (close to room SU3516), for use mainly by students of the Muslim faith.

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Sponsors: Senator Lauren Jencen

Whereas, Muslims are required to perform a procedure commonly called “ablution”, in which they wash parts of their bodies, mainly the face, arms, and feet, with water before engaging in prayer and,

Whereas, Muslims are required to perform a minimum set of five prayers each day, each with defined time frames throughout the day and,

Whereas, an average of three of the five mandatory prayers which each Muslim must perform each day fall during their time of presence on campus and,

Whereas, the only designated area of prayer for Muslims on campus accessible to all students is the MSA prayer room located in the Student Union room 3516, where they therefore also usually perform their ablution and,

Whereas, it is inherently difficult to perform ablution on a small, high sink, that a mess is often being created in the bathrooms next to the MSA prayer room (SU 3516) and,

Whereas, many from the non-Muslim community have complained about the mess and,

Whereas, those from the Muslim community have noted their inconvenience in performing the procedure, in a large part because they feel they are being disrespectful to the rest of the restroom users when having to raise their feet to the sink and,

Whereas, the third floor bathrooms are shared by most student organizations located there, such as the Student Government, Latino Student Union, Black Student Union, Spectrum, and others, it must be kept clean and sanitary and this would be to the benefit of everyone who uses these restrooms and,

Whereas, a similar designated ablution area has previously been installed in the Horton International House, but is inaccessible to most students.

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Student Government supports the construction of two special “ablution” areas, one in each gender bathroom, in the third floor bathrooms located close to room SU 3516, in the form of small low sinks and,

Let It Be Further Resolved, that plans be drafted by the end of the November 2011 and a call for contractors be released thereafter, so construction may take place over the Christmas break, and the ablution area may be opened at the start of the Spring 2012 semester.

Read 10/25/11 Passed 10/25/11