

## **R F2016.02**

### **A Resolution in Support of Creating a Larger Reflection Room in the Angell/Mason/Haven/Tisch Academic Complex**

*A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*

23 March 2016

Sponsors: Maryam Ahmed, Allison Berry, Nicholas Fadanelli, Ryan Gillcrist, Julia Gips, Nadine Jawad, Aditi Rao

**Whereas**, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;<sup>1</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the University of Michigan campus should be a safe space in which students of all religious affiliations and cultures are able to practice their traditions and beliefs; and,

**Whereas**, there are Reflection Rooms across campus “intended for students and other members of the University community to meditate and otherwise spend time in quiet reflection,”<sup>2</sup> and “are provided for the spiritual and ritual use of all faiths”;<sup>3</sup> and,

**Whereas**, students across campus should always have access to an accommodating, nearby Reflection Room; and,

**Whereas**, there is currently only one Reflection Room in the Angell/Mason/Haven/Tisch Academic Complex;<sup>4</sup> and,

**Whereas**, according to the Trotter Multicultural website, the reflection room in Haven Hall has “only room for one person [and is] 37 sq. ft.”;<sup>2</sup> and,

**Whereas**, students have been forced to wait in line in order to have access to the current room; and,

**Whereas**, certain students have religious obligations that involve praying multiple times a day, at specific times and should not have to wait in a line to pray; and,

**Whereas**, the Reflection Room can also be used as a space for students to alleviate stress throughout the day and supports good mental health practices; and,

**Whereas**, the Reflection Room in the Michigan Union is a good example of a reflection room that adequately meets students needs, including prayer rugs, wooden benches, ample space and carpeted floors; and,

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<sup>1</sup> The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

<sup>2</sup> <https://unions.umich.edu/article/reflection-rooms>

<sup>3</sup> <http://muslims.studentorgs.umich.edu/resources/prayer-information>

<sup>4</sup> <https://trotter.umich.edu/article/reflection-rooms>

**Whereas,** the Reflection Room should include various religious texts for students, including but not limited to the Qur'an, the Bible, and the Torah.

**Be it therefore resolved,** LSA SG supports the creation of a larger reflection room in the Angell/Mason/Haven/Tisch Academic Complex; and,

**Be it further resolved,** and the inclusion of religious texts in this and all Reflection Rooms; and,

**Be it finally resolved,** LSA SG will send a copy of this resolution and a signed letter of support, written by the sponsors in consultation with the LSA SG Executive Board, to Jim Leach, Facilities Manager of Mason/Angell/Tisch/Haven Halls, Monika Dressler, Director of LSA Instructional Support Services, and Jacqueline Simpson, Director of the Trotter Multicultural Center.