

R F2016.04

A Resolution in Support of the Expansion and Improvement of Reflection Rooms Across the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor Campus

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

6 April 2016

Sponsors: Maryam Ahmed, Allison Berry, Nicholas Fadanelli, Ryan Gillcrist, Julia Gips, Nadine Jawad, Yong-Joon Kim, Nick LaCerva, 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”¹; 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,”² and “are provided for the spiritual and ritual use of all faiths”³; and,

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

Whereas, there are only eight reflection rooms on the University of Michigan--Ann Arbor Campus for over 43,000 students⁴; and,

Whereas, there is only one reflection room on North Campus, located in Pierpont Commons;² and,

Whereas, two of the reflection rooms, in Haven Hall and in the School of Public Health, do not have room to accommodate more than one individual;⁴ and,

Whereas, students have been forced to wait in line in order to have access to the current rooms; 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, Reflection Rooms can also be used as a space for students to alleviate stress throughout the day and support 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.

Be it therefore resolved, LSA SG supports the expansion and improvement of Reflection Rooms across the University of Michigan--Ann Arbor Campus; and,

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

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

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

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

Be it further resolved, LSA SG supports expanding the number of Reflection Rooms on North Campus; and,

Be it further resolved, LSA SG supports the maintenance and expansion of the Michigan Union Reflection Room in the upcoming Michigan Union Renovations; 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 E. Royster Harper, Vice President of Student Life, to Hank Baier, Associate Vice President of Facilities and Operations, Eric Heilmeier, Interim Director of Michigan Union and Director of Campus Information Center, Loren Rullman, Advisor to Building a Better Michigan, Monika Dressler, Director of LSA Instructional Support Services, and Jacqueline Simpson, Director of the Trotter Multicultural Center.