

Motion: Rename QUIET SPACE BR-003 into a Prayer Room, catered to the Muslim Community

Student Council Notes

An issue of utmost concern to the Islamic Society and Muslim community for the past number of years, is the utilisation of Quiet Space BR-003 on the Grangeoraman campus, located within Bradogue House.

First and foremost, we would like to extend our appreciation and acknowledgement for the university's dedication to creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for all students. However, with this inclusive and diverse-friendly mindset in mind, we present this policy to support the Islamic Society and Muslims on campus in their efforts to rename Quiet Space BR-003 as a prayer room specifically catered to the Muslim Community on Campus.

The original aspiration for Quiet Space BR-003 when established in late 2022, was to provide an area for all faith and non, a safe retreat from the university environment, for introspection, meditation, and spiritual activities. But as time passes, reality often presents a different picture than originally intended.

It has become clear for some time now, to every actor who has been involved with the upkeep of the room, that the area by an overwhelming majority and with no noteworthy comparison has been utilised and maintained by the Muslim students and staff on campus for their daily prayers and religious observances.

Although the Muslim Community appreciate and acknowledges the fact that they do have “somewhere” to fulfil their religious obligations and practices, we also can no longer ignore the logical inconsistencies that the Quiet Space, since its conception has produced, and the lack of uniformity between the official guidelines that the community has anecdotally and soon factually, considered discriminatory and hostile towards their form of worship and

religious practice, while the on-ground situation proved to be far more pragmatic and a number of the Guidelines were not readily enforced, and if there were, for a limited period.

Student Council Also Notes:

There are several compelling reasons to support this proposal

1. Accommodating Religious Obligations and Practises:

For Muslims, daily prayers is a fundamental aspect of their faith. A dedicated prayer room would provide a conducive and appropriate environment for students and staff to fulfil their religious duties in a clear and unhindered manner.

2. Respect for diversity:

Redesignating the space as a prayer room acknowledges and respects the cultural diversity within our student body. It also demonstrates the university's commitment to meeting the unique needs of different communities on campus.

3. Promoting Inclusivity:

A dedicated prayer room sends a powerful message of inclusivity and acceptance to Muslim student and staff, affirming their sense of belonging within the university community. It fosters a culture of respect and understanding among students of diverse backgrounds.

4. Enhancing Campus Life:

Providing adequate facilities for religious practises enhances the overall campus experience for students. A designated prayer room not only meets the

spiritual needs of Muslim students, but would likely contribute to their overall well-being and academic success.

This Student Council hence believes:

That introspectively, Quiet Space BR003 in its current form, only serves to uphold a certain facade of pseudo-secularity and tokenistic inclusion, far from the reality it is and the ideal we believe it could and should be.

Student Council Therefore Mandates:

The Welfare and Equality Officer to lobby the university take steps in reallocating Quiet Space BR-003 as a dedicated prayer facility, specifically tailored to accommodate the religious needs of the Muslim community on campus. If the University does not believe in the case for a dedicated prayer facility for Muslim students and staff on campus, we mandate the Welfare and Equality Officer to query a detailed response and case for why so.

We mandate the Welfare and Equality Officer for discussions and consultation to take place with the Islamic Society regarding the future of the space before the 1st of June 2024 and the renaming of the room to take place before the 20th of June 2024.

We believe that these moves would not only benefit the Muslim community, but also assure them of the student council commitment to hold accountable the University proclaimed values of inclusivity, diversity, and respect.

Proposed by: Abdulawwal Lemboye

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