

Associated Students of Cerritos College

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

4/5/2023

Director Amy Parker introduced the following Resolution,
Senator Mihir Desai seconded the following Resolution

A RESOLUTION

Supporting the Formation of a Non-Denominational Prayer/Meditation Room JR-2223-07

Whereas: As was demonstrated in the March 22, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting, there is a need among many students, especially Muslim students, for a room to make prayers and meditate in at Cerritos College, especially during times of poor weather conditions; and

Whereas: This issue was also raised last year in the ASCC Cabinet, including by former Deputy of Student Activities Nada Jebarah (who was mentioned in the Board of Trustees meeting), but a lack of proper communication and unified progress on the issue led to no action being taken by ASCC or by the Board of Trustees; and

Whereas: President Mohaddisa Naqvi has informally asked the Board of Trustees to establish a prayer room, but no formal action has yet been taken; and

Whereas: CSEA President Irlanda Lopez and Trustee Zurich Lewis encouraged action to be taken; and

Whereas: Students of all religious beliefs could benefit from having a non-denominational prayer/meditation room at Cerritos College, as they would finally have a safe and clean space to fulfill their religious obligations; and

Whereas: There is not currently a Muslim Student Association or club which could normally provide a prayer room for students, thus requiring action by authorities at the college; and

Whereas: Providing a non-denominational prayer/meditation room for students would significantly increase inclusion on campus and truly provide for the many diverse student groups here at Cerritos College; let it be

Resolved: The Associated Students of Cerritos College asks the Board of Trustees, as well as all other relevant campus administrators, to provide for the students of Cerritos College through the establishment of a non-denominational prayer/meditation room for students; and let it be further

Resolved: The Associated Students of Cerritos College, upon passage of this resolution, asks Student Trustee Hector Ledesma to forward this matter to the Board of Trustees, including that ASCC asks for the passage of a Board Resolution on the matter; and

Resolved: Upon passage of this resolution, Director of Equity and Diversity Amy Parker is asked to electronically send this resolution to all current members of the Board of Trustees, except for Student Trustee Hector Ledesma as he is already being provided a copy of the resolution through other means, as

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well as President/Superintendent Jose Fierro, Executive Vice President/Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Felipe Lopez, Vice President/Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Robyn Brammer, Director of Facilities Anthony Parker, and Dean of Student Equity and Success Lui Amador.

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Amendment History

Senator Morales moved to amend the Resolution in the following ways, seconded by Senator Desai:

1. Change the naming of the room from 'prayer room' to 'non-denominational prayer/meditation room' throughout the resolution, including the title.
2. On the fifth Whereas strike 'any' and insert 'all', and strike 'would' and insert 'could'.
3. On the sixth Whereas strike 'or any other type of similar group at Cerritos College for other religious/for religious students overall' and insert 'or club'; strike 'other'; and strike ", such as the Board of Trustees"
4. On the seventh Whereas strike 'religious' and 'of various religions'.

No objections were made to the amendments, and they were unanimously approved.

Final Senate Action

Date of final vote: April 5, 2023

Senators Voting Aye: Alamgir, Bartholomew, Bolagh, Bui, Chun, Desai, Diaz, Dunomes, Echeverria, Flamenco-Medina, Garcia, A. Hernandez, V. Hernandez, Morales, Moran, Murillo, Phungraksakiat, A. Reyes, S. Reyes, Roxas, Vashi

Senators Voting Nay: None.

Senators Abstaining: None.

Vote Count: 21 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

Committee Referral

Referred to Committee? No