

# Associated Students

## Resolution XX 5

Author: Shailah Arreola-Bittner

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Shailah Arreola-Bittner \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Authors: Laura Velasco, Mohammed Mortada, Aya Garawi and Sophia Ruiz

Signatures: Laura Velasco, Mohammed Mortada, Aya Garawi, and Sophia Ruiz

Subject: Prayer/Meditation Space Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Whereas:** Mt. San Antonio College has a diverse multi-faith community that has deeply held convictions and beliefs. This diverse group of faiths require a space to practice their prayers or meditations uninterrupted. In addition, students at large would greatly benefit from having a space where they can meditate between classes to destress. However, the current space that does exist for prayer and meditation in the 9C building is ineffective due to a lack of privacy and space. Mt. SAC could help these students and faculty members by creating an officially designated prayer/meditation space for students of various faiths, as well as students at large.

**Whereas:** In order to effectively serve students, the space must be larger so as to allow more students and faculty to use it. A private and quiet space is also necessary so as to ensure that students who use it feel comfortable and safe. Therefore, in order to create a sufficient space for students, a classroom should be designated to serve solely for the purpose of prayer/meditation and will be open for students and faculty members throughout campus hours. In addition this space must exist solely for the purpose of meditating and praying.

**Whereas:** The creation of this space would serve to fulfill multiple directives of A.S, as stated in the A.S Constitution. The preamble states in one of the pillars of our founding documents to “promote and protect the diverse needs of the student population” and “enhance the awareness of student concerns through open communication with administration”. Further Article VIII, Section 1 states that one of our primary responsibilities as a governing body for students is to “enact legislation which impacts student concerns” and “serving as a voice and advocate for student issues”. Given this verbiage, advocating for the creation of this space falls directly under the responsibility of the Associated Students, by creating it, Associated Students would be presented as an institution that is willing to listen and act on the needs of students. This space is one that many student organizations have been advocating for, therefore by accommodating we are not only providing support for a wide range of students, but also would be serving as a link between students at large and Mt. SAC’s administration.

**Whereas:** By creating this space, Mt. SAC will provide institutional support in the form of staffing and programming in order to accommodate the needs of the Mt. SAC community. This space would be a visible symbol of Associated Students' commitment to welcoming religious diversity, in a way that is still inclusive to the nonreligious population, by creating a space that is beneficial and useful to all.

**Therefore:** Be it resolved, that the A.S. Senate, the A.S. Executive Board, and the A.S. President requests that the Mt. San Antonio College Administration reserves a large classroom for students to use as a prayer/meditation space.

For: \_\_\_\_\_ Against: UNANIMOUS Abstain: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4/2/20

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Approve  Veto Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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