

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2018-1010

TITLE: Resolution Supporting Improved Cleanliness of the J. Wayne Reitz Union Reflection Room

AUTHOR: Senator Dean Hasan

SPONSORS: Volunteers for International Student Affairs President Bijal Desai, Islam on Campus President Onais Tariq, Black Student Union President Dwayne Fletcher, Hispanic Student Association President Robert Lemus, Pakistani Students' Association President Sara Khan, Arab Students' Association President Lina Babiker, Bangladeshi Students' Association President Ikramamul Nibir, Indian Students' Association President Vibhor Nayar, Majority Party Leader Jonathan Nickas, Minority Party Leader Nathan Morse, Senator Anmol Shah, Senator Chad Grodi, Senator Andrea Rangel, Senator Paulo Bazan, Senator Griffen Bloshinsky, Senator Avichaim Snyder

WHEREAS, one of the values of the J. Wayne Reitz Union is to “create a safe, clean, comfortable, and inviting place for students and the entire campus community to gather and interact”¹; and,

WHEREAS, people seek to meditate and/or practice their own beliefs and religion as they wish in a clean and comfortable environment; and,

WHEREAS, the J. Wayne Reitz Union houses an area on the third floor for all people to utilize as they wish called the Reflection Room; and,

WHEREAS, it is a common practice to remove one’s shoes in many religions and cultures in meditation, prayer and daily life; and,

WHEREAS, the Reflection Room houses a shoe rack in its lobby near the bathrooms; and,

WHEREAS, shoes worn inside the Reflection Room can spread a multitude of species of bacteria, brought in on the soles of people’s shoes that can cause “infections in the stomach, eyes and lungs”²; and,

WHEREAS, it is a common practice for people to put their faces and hands on the ground during certain prayers, rituals and while meditating; and,

WHEREAS, pillows were found in the bathroom earlier this semester and remained there for over a week; and,

WHEREAS, there is often a bad odor in the Reflection Room due to the collection of dirt that is carried in by shoes; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate requests the J. Wayne Reitz Union update the posted Reflection Room rules to include the addition of no shoes being permitted inside.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate requests the J. Wayne Reitz Union improve the interval in which the Reflection Room and supporting areas are monitored and cleaned.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to J. Wayne Reitz Union Board of Managers.

¹ <https://www.union.ufl.edu/aboutus/missionvalues>

² <https://www.rd.com/health/wellness/take-off-shoes-in-house/>