

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: SGAR-57004

Date introduced: July 15th, 2020

Authors: Vice President Rashid, Commissioner Chukwu

Sponsor: President Khademakbari, Speaker Cheng, Senator Morgan

Draft: Vote

Muslim-Inclusive Reflection Spaces

Whereas, the University of Houston Medical School will provide two “all-inclusive” Reflection Spaces for students to practice mindfulness in any form they wish;

Whereas, the Reflection Spaces in the new Medical School will set a precedent for additional Reflection Spaces at the University of Houston in the future;

Whereas, the President of the Muslim Student Association, Mishal Siddiqui, stated that Muslim students have only ever requested a carpeted floor and a shelf to store prayer materials for any space open to Muslim worship;

Whereas, the plans for Reflection Spaces in the Medical School currently consist of a floor made with stone material and no carpeting, as well as no shelf or storage space for prayer or meditation materials;

Whereas, the plans for the structure of the Reflection Spaces has excluded those who worship by kneeling and/or prostrating on the floor, including, but not limited to, Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus;

Whereas, floors made with materials other than carpet constrict Muslim students’ comfort and make it difficult to worship;

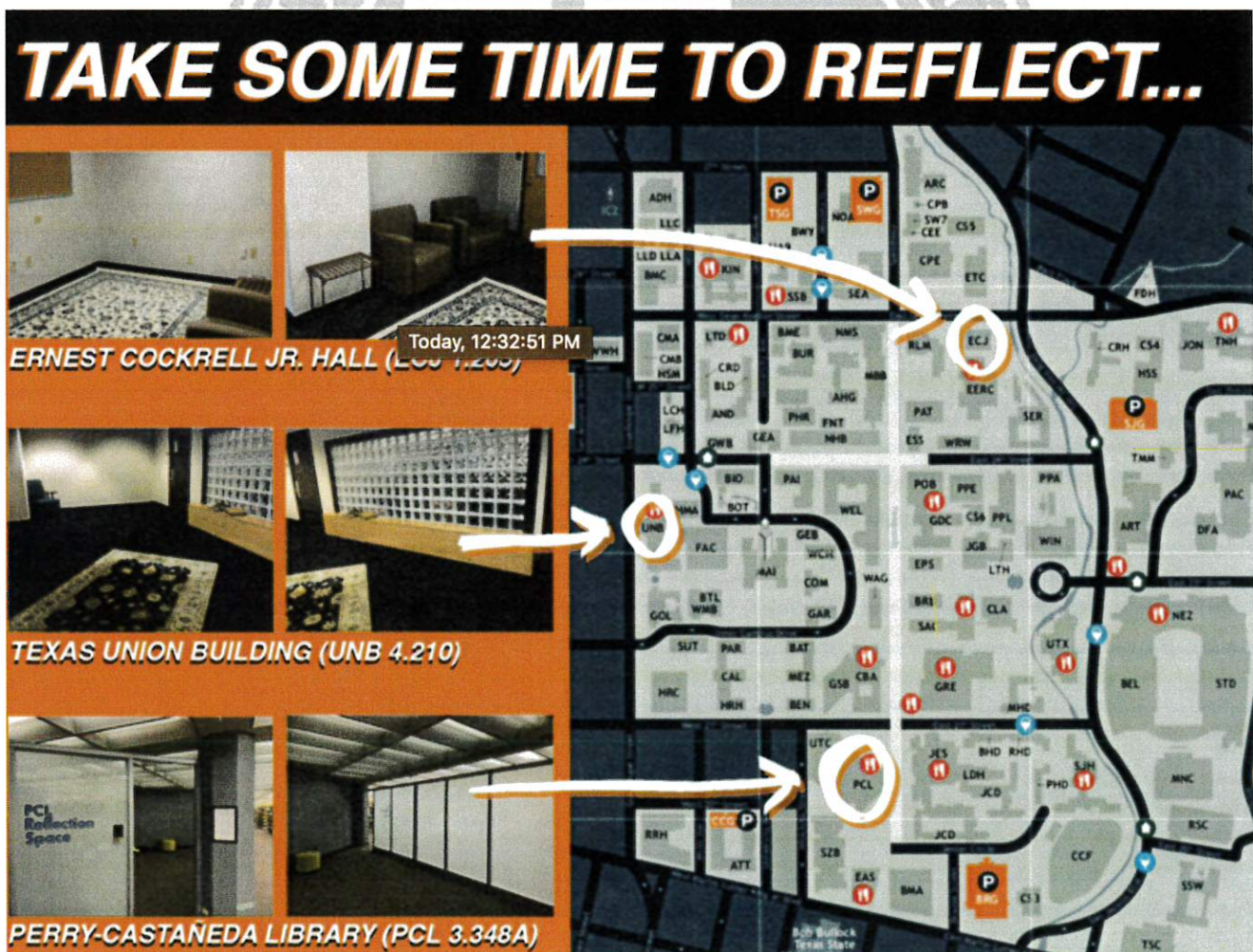
Whereas, Muslim students require a shelf to hold the Quran, prayer mats, head coverings, as well as other prayer materials;

Whereas, the Muslim Student Association has endorsed and co-authored a petition in support of adding a carpet and storage space to the plans for the Reflection Spaces¹;

Whereas, the University of Texas in Austin has Reflection spaces in three buildings across its campus with carpeted floors as well as a designated storage space/shelf for students to store prayer or meditation materials;

Therefore, be it Resolved that the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

Supports the addition of carpeted floors and shelves for any and all Reflection Spaces at the University of Houston in order to create truly inclusive spaces for mindfulness.



¹ [Change.org/uhreflection](https://change.org/uhreflection)

Jasmine Khademakbari

Jasmine Khademakbari
Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 7/31/2020

APPROVED

Julian Cheng

Julian Cheng
Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 7/31/20

