

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: SGAR-60007

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Sponsor(s): Sen. Gokal, Chair Dhanani

Committee: Administration and Finance

Draft: Final Read

**Supporting the A.D. Bruce Religion Center Wudu Renovation
Feasibility Study**

Whereas, the Student Government Association supports the right of students to practice their religious beliefs freely and unencumbered;

Whereas, various facilities at the University of Houston are not up to code with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990¹;

Whereas, it is illegal to allocate state-tax dollars to the renovation/construction of wudu station facilities in the M.D. Anderson Library²;

Whereas, the 60th administration supports the creation of spaces on campus that are designed for the proper washing of oneself before prayer;

Whereas, wudu stations are essential for Muslim students who are required to perform wudu before offering the prayer five times a day;

¹<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/disability/ada&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1708295550990828&usg=AOvVaw3ejiOBfku9NBPuT1Mhs1XN>

² <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://thedailycougar.com/2023/11/09/wudu-station-resolution-hits-roadblock-with-facilities-construction-management/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1708295550991232&usg=AOvVaw1K4dmSt-PurSa5piVBnZRw>

Whereas, the construction of the A.D. Bruce Religion Center was not funded and is not currently maintained through state-allocated dollars³;

Whereas, standard wudu station facilities are normally gender-divided;

Whereas, the religion center's 'wudu station' is in great need of renovation for increased capacity, cleanliness, and dignity to perform ablution before prayer for multiple individuals at a time;

Whereas, there have been documented cases of students experiencing overcrowding in the M.D. Anderson Library when attempting to perform wudu and pray⁴;

Whereas, the renovation of the wudu station area in the religion center would lead to a decrease in overcrowding in the M.D. Anderson Library basement for performing prayer;

Whereas, past efforts for the expansion of designated meditation and prayer spaces on campus in pre-existing buildings have been unsuccessful⁵;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

The Student Government Association supports the A.D. Bruce Religion Center in their FY 24 request for a wudu renovation feasibility study⁶;

Be it further resolved, the Student Government Association encourages the Chancellor of the University to approve the Religion Center's Fiscal Year 24 request⁷;

³ <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://uh.edu/adbruce/about-us/history/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1708295550991406&usg=AOvVaw2alN32QWJSa1izZRcTXhW4>

⁴ <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://thedailycougar.com/2022/09/23/muslim-students-experience-overcrowding-in-library-prayer-space/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1708295550992007&usg=AOvVaw3IJgy52rghY472zf8PxJAI>

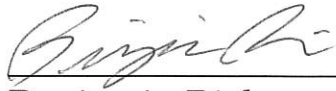
⁵ https://www.google.com/url?q=https://thedailycougar.com/2020/01/16/senate-pushes-for-meditation-room/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1708295550992278&usg=AOvVaw3Fr7OR1da8M_nDX0ERQNFf

⁶ <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.uh.edu/sfac/unit-requests/fy25/additional/otr/fy24/adbruce1.pdf&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1708295550991665&usg=AOvVaw3i5KnoDGe8cTTZOhjVq0Mo>

⁷ <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.uh.edu/sfac/unit-requests/fy25/additional/otr/fy24/adbruce1.pdf&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1708295550992564&usg=AOvVaw0nL6QoC2-wQN09qHOR9p7V>

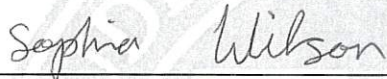
Be it further resolved, the Student Government Association encourages the Student Fees Advisory Committee to approve the prospective request for the full expenditure amount for the construction of an appropriate wudu station in Fiscal Year 2025.

APPROVED



Benjamin Rizk
Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 02-18-2024



Speaker Wilson
Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 02-18-2024

