



**THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. Res-000-024
ADMINISTRATION YEAR: 2023-2024

RESOLUTION NAME: "INTERFAITH ROOM MANAGEMENT, USE, AND GOVERNANCE / ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERFAITH COUNCIL"

SPONSORED BY:

Khizar Imran, USG Vice President of Finance
Aila Choudhary, USG Executive Vice President

THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK ENACTS:

WHEREAS, all religious student organizations have collectively agreed to maintain the current operational framework of the interfaith room as of the academic year 2023-2024, emphasizing adherence to established ground rules;

WHEREAS, the principle of diversity is embraced with the recognition that in specific scenarios, such as prayer, the pursuit of diversity requires open dialogue and compromises to address and navigate inherent limitations;

WHEREAS, a survey conducted by CCNY Hillel indicates that Jewish students currently do not see the need for officially designated separate areas within the interfaith space for their use as a result of a poll;

WHEREAS, the interfaith room's heavy utilization by the Muslim students acknowledges Islam's detailed prayer practices;

WHEREAS, Cru CCNY/IVCF had expressed their willingness to accept any resolution the group agreed upon during the early stages of discussions, but elected to not attend any subsequent meetings.

WHEREAS, Religious Student Organizations have articulated that the distinct notions of cleanliness within their religious practices are conflicting with those required by other

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religions, thereby negating the feasibility of establishing shared guidelines for the division of the interfaith room based on religious observance at this point in time;

WHEREAS, a sign will be prominently displayed outside the room, detailing its name and governing rules;

BE IT RESOLVED, this document is acknowledged as a living document, amenable to modifications should any student group feel marginalized, with provisions for such groups to petition either Student Affairs and/or The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) to initiate relevant changes. The initial step for petitioning involves contacting the CCNY Vice President of Student Affairs and the USG President, thereby starting discussions for convening the Interfaith Council to deliberate on the identified needs, proposed changes and the feasibility for formal changes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the establishment of the Interfaith Council under the oversight of the USG, with its composition reflecting diverse religious affiliations. Distinct religions identified will be allocated two seats on the Council, ensuring representation and inclusivity.

The Council, prohibited from holding executive sessions, will be accessible to the public, minimally comprising:

- Ex-Officio Vice President of Student Affairs or designee, without vote;
- Ex-Officio Director of the Center for DEI & Belonging, without vote;
- Ex-Officio Director of Student Life & Leadership Development, without vote;
- Ex-Officio USG President or designee;
- A USG Executive Member or designee;
- 2 additional members per distinct religious student club.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Office of Student Life & Leadership Development shall incorporate a question into the Club Registration form to determine whether a club's main focus is religion. The responses to this question will guide the selection of council members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the primary responsibility of the two USG Members is to act as impartial mediators and voice for any religious student groups that, for various reasons, are unable to participate in the council as voting members.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any proposed changes by the Interfaith Council must pass by a two-thirds majority within the council before being sent to the Undergraduate Student Government in a form of a recommendation to amend this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any recommendations by the Interfaith Council are to be included in the agenda for the next General Meetings of the Undergraduate Student Government, where they will require a simple majority vote for approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Student Government is obligated to make every sincere effort to approve the recommendations from the Interfaith Council unless there are compelling reasons to do otherwise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, should the Undergraduate Student Government fail to pass the recommendations of the Interfaith Council after three consecutive mandatory attempts, the matter shall be escalated to the CCNY Vice President of Student Affairs for further deliberation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the maintenance and cleanliness of the interfaith space are designated as the responsibility of the college custodial staff, ensuring its daily upkeep without imposing this duty on the students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the enforcement of house rules within the interfaith room to maintain its sanctity and purpose:

1. No food allowed to ensure cleanliness and respect for fasting practices;
2. The space shall not be used for storage, maintaining its availability for religious practices;
3. Prohibition of all religious texts on whiteboards, posters, and similar materials to maintain neutrality;
4. The interfaith room shall not host events, keeping its sole use for daily religious practices for all religious denominations.
5. If the carpet is rolled out, no shoes are allowed on the carpet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the allocated area for a small box or hanging space in the one section of the interfaith space, not exceeding 9 square feet, is specifically intended for the storage of communal modest attire for prayer purposes.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the establishment of an annual meeting to be convened at the commencement of each semester of the Interfaith Council, which includes representatives

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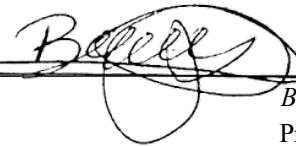
from Student Affairs, the USG, and leaders of all religious student organizations. The purpose of this meeting is to assess the current condition and utilization of the interfaith room, explore opportunities for improvements, and address any arising issues. This will ensure ongoing dialogue, collaboration, and mutual respect among the various religious groups represented on campus, underlining the commitment to a cohesive and inclusive campus environment.

INTRODUCED ON: 16 APRIL 2024

PASSED ON: 2 MAY 2024



Asif A. Sattar
USG President
2023-2024

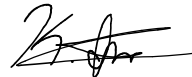


Bragye Payano
Presiding Chair
2023-2024

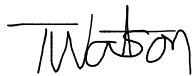
ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF APRIL 2024 DURING A MEETING BETWEEN THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:



Ramon A De Los Santos
CCNY AVP of Student Affairs
2023-2024



Khizar Imran
USG Vice President of Finance
2023-2024



Terri Watson
CCNY Director of Center of DEI
2023-2024



Aila Choudhary
USG Executive Vice President
2023-2024

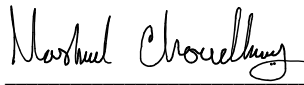


Furqan Khan
Vice President, Muslim Student Organization
2023-2024



Ayelet Teitelbaum
CCNY Hillel Representative
2023-2024

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Mashud Choudhary
Treasurer, Muslim Student Organization
2023-2024



Berta Batya Kimyagarov
CCNY Chabad Representative
2023-2024



Ayesha Ijaz
Treasurer, Women In Islam
2023-2024



Fatima Al-Jahmi
President, Muslims Giving Back
2023-2024



Rahat Rahman
Vice President, Muslims Giving Back
2023-2024

NOTE: The individuals listed above have been designated as representatives from their respective student organizations to participate in these discussions.
