



Resolution Number:	W-19-03	Sponsored By:	Senators Amrutha Patil and Ari Nitzkin
Introduced On:	March 21st, 2019		
Voted On:	28 March 2019		
Result:	Passed		
Vote Count:	Unanimous		

A RESOLUTION TO: Support the creation of a prayer center in the Devos Center on the downtown Pew Campus

Recognizing, that the mission statement for inclusion and equity at GVSU is as follows, “Through collaboration, consultation, and leadership with students, faculty, staff, administrators and community partners, the Division of Inclusion and Equity advances GVSU’s social justice framework for equity and inclusion. The division coordinates sustainable and strategic institutional efforts to engage all members of the community while also intentionally supporting and advocating for historically underrepresented communities. The division’s work furthers the university’s liberal education and student-centered mission.”¹

Recognizing, that there is currently no prayer room available to students and staff at the downtown campus.

Recognizing, that the Devos center is the most central location on the downtown Pew campus, located between Eberhart, Kennedy, and Seidman.

Recognizing, that people have classes close to their designated time of prayer and need an appropriate place to practice their faith downtown.

Recognizing, that the closest Mosque is 13 miles away from Pew Campus and the closest Synagogue is 4 miles away with no transportation provided to either location.

Recognizing, that GVSU’s students and faculty come from a vast diversity of backgrounds and it is important to accommodate everyone’s religious needs.

Recognizing, that students who live and have classes downtown do not have access to the prayer center located in Kirkhof.

¹ <https://www.gvsu.edu/inclusion/>

Recognizing, that members of student organizations such as MSA and Hillel have expressed that they do not have a proper and inclusive space for their religious classes on the downtown Pew campus.

Recognizing, that about a third of GVSU students live downtown, and those students do not have timely access to the prayer room center located in Kirkhof center when attending classes downtown.

Recognizing, that an absence of a prayer room downtown in conflict with the mission statement of inclusion and equity at GVSU.

Whereas, the absence of a prayer room can cause discomfort for students who are devoted to their faith and without a place to practice on campus near their required classes.

Recognizing, that while we are all insiders of our own ideas of faith, we are outsiders to other people's ideas of faith and therefore must make sure to be fair and inclusive of all faiths to the greatest extent possible.

Let It Be Resolved, that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate strongly encourages GVSU to open a new prayer room in the Devos Center of the Downtown Pew Campus by Winter of the 2019-2020 school year.