

Union Council Motion: April 2008

Campaign for a “Multi-faith prayer space”

The Union believes

Whilst the prayer facilities at the Nuffield “Oasis” centre are of excellent standard they are not open in the evening after 5PM. Therefore students can not fulfil their religious obligations whilst on campus after 5PM.

Due to the Universities International marketing strategy the majority of students from the Middle East and other countries where Islam is the predominate religion study intensive courses such as Pharmacy and the majority of students regularly working in the library late at night are in need of prayer facilities.

Due to the lack of prayer facilities students are forced to pray at the *Jami mosque* which results in students travelling through Summerstown at night, an area of Portsmouth which has witnessed a sharp rise in racially motivated crime.

The amount of international students from Islamic countries will continue to grow, in line with the Universities marketing strategy. The university is therefore duty bound to provide a basic level of welfare, which includes a prayer space.

The Union further believes

For the past two years sabbatical officers and staff have invested a considerable amount of time and effort to this campaign.

The Sabbatical officers and staff have coordinated their efforts with representatives of the Students’ Union Islamic society. Following negotiations with the University the students are not calling for a Muslim only prayer room, but a multi-faith prayer space, which does not promote segregation but demonstrates the Universities’ commitment to integration, equality, student welfare and multi-culturalism.

The Union resolves

To continue to campaign and lobby the University until such a prayer space is created.
To organise students involvement in the campaign by means that may include petitions, awareness activities and the utilisation of UPSU media.

Proposed by:
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