

**University Memorial Center Board Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**UMC 245-5:30pm**

*Attending Members: Emily Breidt (v), Emma Rae Langdon (Nightride Re, Riley Day (ex-o(p), Hannah Velte (v), Minuri Gamage (CSI Board Rep), Ayushma Thapa (v), Jason Potter (v), Austin Rugh (v), Debbie Cook (v), Anissha Raju (v), Justin Felton (v), Joshua Fader (v), Alba Gonzalez (v), Luis Chavez (ex-o), Ryley Day (ex-o), Luke Brazil (SVA), Marcus Fotenos (ex-o)*

**I. Call to Order**

5:31pm

**II. Approvals**

a. Tuesday, November 29th Agenda

Unanimous

**II. Open Hearing**

James Kelly from : Recruiting student leaders. Orientation involves “junior leaders”. They facilitate small groups and help students through the program. (Passed out applications for these positions). No need to assume candidates need to be ‘perfect students’. We do ask students to be in good academic and conduct standing with the University. This is a volunteer position. No payment, though some t-shirts and swag. Important dates: applications will be accepted until January 22, 2017. There is a website that lists all relevant information pertaining to the selecting of the team of new student ‘junior leaders’. I will leave job descriptions for those who might be interested who are not here. There will be a couple of intern sessions in the next few weeks.

Cody Jackson: Re: proposal to provide a space on campus for prayer. We have more and more international students and this requires us to be more serious about these students. Students have no place to pray on campus. This is not taking those students who seek to pray on campus seriously. As we get more students from other cultures where the opportunities for religious practice/prayer are readily available, we need to consider their needs.

Rana (2<sup>nd</sup> yr sophomore): In the Engineering Building there is a very small, yet open area that is made available for purposes of prayer. There are a lot of construction workers coming through the area regularly. We have a tiny space in which to pray. When others are in that area, we have to wait to pray. There is a lot of noise in the area, which is not consistent with the typical preference for a quiet context for prayer.

Ahmed (5<sup>th</sup> yr sr in engrg): We pray five times a day, which is a pillar of our religion. We are required to manage these five prayers each day. In 2013 there were 500 Muslim students, and more recently the total has risen to 600 or so. There are a lot of people looking to pray multiple times a day on campus, as you can see. The quiet space in the Engineering Center is in use by a person praying every 30 minutes or so. As Rana said, praying there faces numerous difficulties. Speaking for myself, I can pray under difficult circumstances, and I don’t want to ask you to make something available on just our behalf. We can pray in the dirt if necessary. Having

this prayer space allocated for any major religion would stand as a testament to CU's inclusiveness. "Inclusive excellence" has been a watch word in the university at large in recent years, and I support that. It helps me to feel connected to the wider community when anything that promotes a sense of inclusion is added to campus.

Emily: We have a designated quiet space in the SECA area that was established last year.

Minuri: Are you guys looking for a space in the Engineering Center or anywhere on Campus?

: We are now looking for a space in the UMC since it is accessible to all students on campus.

Emily: you want a space just called a 'prayer room'? We are not allowed, as a publicly funded institution, to offer a space for any religious purpose, but we can provide a quiet space for the use of anyone who seeks such a room.

Cody: First option is to convert the quiet space in the SECA lounge. There are other religious accommodations on campus, including for example a foot-washing station for Jewish students. One problem is finding a space that is only for prayer purposes.

Emily: We are not allowed to designate a space for a specifically religious purpose.

Cody: Well then, going to a second option. In other universities around the country the offices of the Muslim Student Association are given to the control of the space as they see fit. The current office for our association is the size of a cubicle and not suitable for this purpose and the other purposes of the association.

Minuri: Is the problem with the Engr Bldg quiet space that it is not big enough?

Cody: No. it is that it is not a separate room, and there is a lot of construction going on in the vicinity of that area. The Denver Campus has two rooms designated for this purpose, and they are called "Reflection Rooms". We are just looking for a space that is quiet. This could be painted in nonreligious terms.

Minuri: I would suggest that you take a look at the SECA space.

Marcus: Cody and I have already looked at all the options that are available and with respect to the SECA quiet space, it is not clear how to enforce it as a *quiet area*, and it is not presently being used consistently in that way.

Austin: My question is: clearly the title or designation is important to you, but what sorts of things (features of the room, signage, policies, etc.) would you want so we could serve your needs.

Cody: First, not having it as in a route of egress/thoroughfare. The main problems have been noise and people using the space as an area to pass through. For me, the title of the area doesn't matter. It is having a policy that people walking through the area, or making noise in the area, would not be ok.

Rana: the space we have seen that worked perfectly was large, the direction to which we must face in prayer faced windows so no one could walk in front of us.

Austin: how much space would be enough for you?

Rana: there is a need for the men to meet as a group to pray once a week in a 'congregational prayer session', and there is no space on campus where this is possible.

: We need room enough for 15-20 people, and for some congregational prayer sessions men and women must pray separately.

Hannah: When we created the SECA quiet lounge we had uses of this kind in mind. Taking off from what Austin asked, perhaps there is a way to improve the SECA lounge as a possible use. Perhaps there is a label to use in identifying and marking off that space as for quiet uses, or perhaps by having a key system that limits access.

Rana: the room we've seen was called "Private Meditation Room",

Cody: They have two separate rooms at DIA.

Jimmy: Have you guys tried to schedule use of meeting rooms? A lot of students arrange to have claim over meeting spaces regularly throughout the year. These are a good option for the Friday congregation prayers.

Rana: These weekly congregational prayer sessions do not fall at the same time for all of those who need to pray.

Cody: that would work for Fridays. Our primary goal is to find a space where people can pray at any time of the day throughout the school week.

Jimmy: when we were setting up the space in the SECA lounge we were told we couldn't call the space even "Reflective Space". That's why we ended up calling it a quiet space. We want to make the UMC available to everyone's particular needs.

Cody: We definitely want to work with you, of course.

Jimmy: I can show you how the quiet room and associated wash room could be used.

Emily: how about you take a look at the SECA quiet space, look into reserving weekly meeting spaces for the Friday prayer sessions, and then come and talk to me to see what we can manage to do.

#### **IV. Chair's Report**

a. Diversity Training

Emily: get me your filled-out training form to me asap.

b. Dietary Restrictions for Banquet

Emily: if you have dietary restrictions, please let me know so we can make this available to Lisa by midnight tonight.

c. Open Voting Position

Emily: Maria cannot continue on the board. So we will hold an election next week, particularly for those of you who are ex-officio members.

d. January Meetings

Emily: there are a bunch of meetings, including the first day back in January, that will be addressing budgeting. Please make it!

e. Goal Setting

Emily:

#### **V. Reports Suspended**

#### **VI. Adjournment**

**Debbie: let's stop!**

**Unanimously agreed upon at 6:08 pm**