

In an effort to ensure that students, student groups and the UWO Chaplains have a space in the UCC for the expression of faith, religion and spirituality, the University Students' Council will make available for these purposes Room 269 (colloquially referred to as "The Multifaith Space").

It is important to provide some background as context. Discussions about the creation of Multifaith Space have been ongoing for many years. In February 2010, students approved a new fee, the intent of which was to assist fund USC capital projects. The first of these projects was the renovation of the former UCC Gyms. Included within that renovation was construction of a space that would be dedicated to the exercise and expression of faith, religion and spirituality (the Multifaith Space).

The Multifaith Space was completed in August 2011. The initial capital cost to construct it is estimated to be \$657,500. In addition to this, there will be ongoing costs: Annual Replacement and Renewal of Capital (estimated to be \$10,000/year), Occupancy Costs (estimated to be \$35,700 annually), Cleaning Costs (estimated to be \$8,500 annually) and Operating Overhead (estimated to be \$6,400 annually). Students, through the USC, are responsible for paying these costs.

With the completion of the Space imminent, representatives of the USC met with UWO Chaplains to discuss a plan to administer the Space. These discussions have been ongoing for some time. While there was general agreement that the Space should be available for use, on an equitable basis, by all students and student groups, it became clear that the requirements of some groups conflicted with those of others. As no general agreement was attainable, and because it is vital that students be able to utilize the Space without further delay, the USC will implement immediately the following variances to its existing Policies and Procedures:

1. The Space will be dedicated to the exercise and expression of faith, religion and spirituality;
2. Those wishing to reserve the Space will be permitted to book a maximum of 2 hours per weekday, to a maximum of 10 hours; as per existing policy, these bookings may not be made earlier than the 15th of each month for the next month;
3. Those authorized to book space will be, in order of priority, student clubs whose principle mission is related to faith, religion and spirituality; and then the UWO Chaplains;
4. In the event that there are multiple requests for events that are materially identical, these requests will be considered as a single request in order that maximum availability to all groups is maintained;
5. The Space will be maintained as a "blank" space; no permanent or semi-permanent installations will be permitted; such materials as may be required for an event will be permitted for the duration of the event but must be removed at the termination of the event; users must leave the Space in the same condition in which they find it;

6. The principle of exclusive use will be upheld; for example, if a group reserves the Space for quiet reflection, no other activity will be permitted in the Space unless the user so permits;
7. It is recognized that certain faith groups may require storage space for materials needed by them for use in the Space; the attached kitchenette/anteroom may be used provided the faith group(s) supplies the necessary material and equipment to ensure safe storage; this service will be provided to that group or groups with a demonstrable and particular need and will be entirely at the discretion of the USC.

The Space will be maintained (eg. cleaning) at the standard applicable to all USC reservable space. Any group or groups requiring a different or higher standard may request it but all additional costs to meet this different or higher standard will be the responsibility of the requesting group.

All reservations will be made through USC Reservations in the manner currently applicable to all other bookable USC space and, with the exception of the variances noted above, all existing Policies and Procedures governing USC space will apply. This policy will be used as a reference point for our front line staff members and is posted on our website in more depth.

It is intended that a review of the USC's existing Building Usage Policy will be undertaken, likely in the new year. The Multifaith Space and its use and administration will be included in that review. Consequently, the variances that will be applied now are to be considered temporary measures and a pilot project only. Usage data will be collected along with experiential information and will be made available when the Building Usage Policy review begins.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely

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