WHEREAS Wichita State University is committed to providing an encompassing college experience and an accepting atmosphere to all students; and

WHEREAS an interfaith prayer space aligns with the University Strategic Plan which states that Wichita State University values diversity of culture, thought, and experience; and

WHEREAS one of Student Senate’s main objectives is to accommodate the diverse religious practices on campus and advocate for the diverse makeup of students at Wichita State University; and

WHEREAS Mrs. Harvey D. Grace, wife of who the Grace Memorial Chapel in named in memory of, originally intended and outlined in a document titled “Suggestions for use of chapel” from 1963 for the chapel to be open to all creeds and to all races of people; and

WHEREAS there is strong support for an interfaith prayer space from numerous student organizations and university associations such as: Global Faith in Action, Student Association for Interfaith Dialogue, Muslim Student Association, and Campus Ministries; and

WHEREAS The University demographic has changed considerably since 1963; and

WHEREAS the space lacks the flexibility to accommodate the spiritual needs of all current and future students, faculty and staff at Wichita State University; therefor

BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Senate of Wichita State University recognizes the importance of inclusion and an interfaith prayer space and supports the renovation of The Grace Memorial Chapel into a flexible, faith neutral space.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be forwarded with respect to Dr. John Bardo, President of the University; Dr. Wade Robinson, Vice President for Student Engagement; Dr. Anthony J. Vizzini, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs; Christine Schneikart-Luebbe, Dean of Students and Associate Vice President for
Student Engagement; The Wichita Eagle, the newspaper serving the Greater-Wichita Metropolitan area; and The Sunflower, the Student Newspaper of Wichita State University.

APPROVED: November 5, 2014

Matthew J. Conklin
Student Body President

Brandon M. Baltzell
Student Body Vice President
President of the Senate