Student Stance on University’s Response to Cardinal Newman Society  
ASUSF Resolution 15-16-02

Whereas: On Friday, June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of same-sex marriage during the Obergefell v. Hodges case 5 to 4; and

Whereas: In wake of this event, Matt Nazario-Miller, a co-manager of the University of San Francisco’s official social media channels for three years, tweeted: “Supreme Court legalizes gay marriage nationwide in the wake of #SFPride: sco.It/55xpGz – @UST_LTMC #LoveWins;” and

Whereas: On June 27-28, 2014, the University took part in the San Francisco Pride parade, marching with a float in which students, staff, faculty, and administrators were wearing University branded gear that read “Proudly part of the city that redefines the word pride;” and

Whereas: On Friday, July 10, 2015, the tweet was taken down from USFCA’s official twitter account; and

Whereas: According to the Cardinal Newman Society, this action followed “multiple communications from the Newman Society;” and

Whereas: The Cardinal Newman Society stated University president Fr. Paul J. Fitzgerald, S.J. explained: “the initial social media posting was inappropriate and was posted in error by an inexperienced staff member;” and

Whereas: On July 16, 2015, at 9:09 am, the Cardinal Newman Society posted an article regarding this occurrence and included a statement from Fr. Fitzgerald, S.J.:

A social media post concerning the recent Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage was posted on the University of San Francisco Twitter account in error. This post does not represent the views of the University of San Francisco, a Jesuit Catholic university.

While the university deeply respects and promotes the innate dignity of all gay and lesbian students, faculty, staff, and alumni as they are created in the image and likeness of God, it does not endorse views on marriage that are inconsistent with the teaching of the Church.

The university regrets any misunderstanding caused by the erroneous post and will provide closer oversight over posts on official social media platforms in the future.

Whereas: The University expresses a commitment to diversity and inclusiveness: “Inclusive excellence means finding common ground among diverse communities, and then moving to
higher ground. At USF, we celebrate an environment where every individual steps into new understanding respectfully and with delight, and where all are better off by being part of our diverse community;” and

**Whereas:** A core University values is: “Cura personalis - care of the whole person - is a Jesuit tradition that inspires our distinct style of education. One in which intellect is only one part of an individual’s full development;” and

**Whereas:** Another University core value is: “the Jesuit Catholic tradition that views faith and reason as complementary resources in the search for truth and authentic human development, and that welcomes persons of all faiths or no religious beliefs as fully contributing partners to the University;” and

**Whereas:** Another University core value is: “a common good that transcends the interests of particular individuals or groups; and reasoned discourse rather than coercion as the norm for decision making;” and

**Whereas:** Another University core value is: “a culture of service that respects and promotes the dignity of every person;” and

**Whereas:** The statements made on behalf of the University regarding same-sex marriage are contradictory to the expressed values and commitment to diversity; and

**Whereas:** When the Cardinal Newman Society article was released, students reposted the article in mass amounts stating their disapproval of the statements made on their behalf; and

**Whereas:** The statements made on behalf of the University to the Cardinal Newman Society ostracized and isolated members of the LGBTQ+ community at USF; and

**Whereas:** The University has done significant work to support the LGBTQ+ community, including: establishing a Gender and Sexuality Center, constructing gender inclusive restrooms and housing, providing same-sex benefits for staff and faculty, and much more; and

**Whereas:** The statements made on behalf of the University contradict all of the work that the staff, faculty, and students have done to serve the LGBTQ+ community in the past; and

**Whereas:** The University markets itself as a University that welcomes people from all walks of life and that is inclusive and very LGBTQ+ friendly; and
Whereas: This statement may deter prospective students from considering attending the University because it does not promote the inclusive environment we claim and strive to have; and

Whereas: At ASUSF Summit, 80% of students in attendance identified the issue of the response made on behalf of the University to the Cardinal Newman Society as a priority initiative for ASUSF Senate to pursue; therefore, be it

Resolved by ASUSF Senate of the University of San Francisco, representing all the undergraduate students of the University: Let it be known that the statement made on behalf of the University by Fr. Fitzgerald, S.J. does not represent the beliefs of the student body; furthermore, be it

Resolved: ASUSF Senate does not stand in agreement or support of the statement; furthermore, be it

Resolved: ASUSF Senate formally states that we stand in solidarity with all of our constituents and hope for all to feel represented and not ostracized; furthermore, be it

Resolved: ASUSF Senate will continue to support LGBTQ+ students, faculty and staff; furthermore, be it

Resolved: ASUSF Senate will continue to ensure accountability of administration in accurately representing the student body.

Submitted by:
   Raissa Reis, ASUSF Vice President of Public Relations
   Ashley Lam, Sophomore Class Representative
   Delvin Hodges, LGBTQ Representative
   Tin Dinh, LGBTQ Representative

Signed on this day, November 10, 2015:

Laureano Figueroa, ASUSF President