Dear USF community,

In light of the recent outbreak of Coronavirus, there has been worldwide concern and fear over its effects. We are aware that there are many members of our community who are struggling knowing that the safety of their loved ones are at risk. In response to the outbreak, precautionary measures against contracting the virus have regrettfully been shrouded in prejudice and xenophobia against members of our community.

ASUSF Senate would like to take the time to stand with those in our community and their families who have been affected by news of the Coronavirus as well as any alienation they may have experienced. We want any and all members of our community who have been impacted by these events to know that you are an integral part of USF and that you are cared for. Additionally, to our international students and students with loved ones abroad who have been impacted by Coronavirus, our hearts are with you and your families during this difficult time.

While we sympathize with the fears and worries regarding the crisis, it is imperative that we focus on the Jesuit value of ‘people for and with others’ by caring for all members of our community. We ought not to isolate and ostracize members of our community for fear of contracting the virus, but stand together and support them. The impermanence of this outbreak should serve as a permanent reminder to re-evaluate the consequences of our actions in times of crisis.

We encourage you to speak out against the proliferation of hateful rhetoric against our community, regardless if it occurs on-campus or online. Your support and compassion is instrumental in advocating for and supporting our community in this difficult time. If you or anyone you know has experienced bias related incidents, we encourage you to report these incidents to the Bias Education and Resource Team.

As individuals and organizations around the world work tirelessly to aid those affected by this virus, let us reiterate our commitment to ensuring that we are empathetic and thoughtful in our efforts to support our community.

In community,

ASUSF Senate