In Recognition of USF’s Vice Provost for Student Life, Peter Novak
Resolution 14-15-05

Whereas: Peter Novak, D.F.A. has served at the University of San Francisco for over ten years and is transitioning from his position of Vice Provost for Student Life to return to the faculty, to teaching, research and service; and

Whereas: Dr. Novak served as the Associate Dean for Arts and Humanities from 2004-2007 where he oversaw significant growth in programs in the fine arts department; and

Whereas: Along with being the founding faculty member of the Performing Arts Department and the Performing Arts and Social Justice (PASJ) major that linked performance and entertainment together working towards social justice, he also introduced American Sign Language courses to fulfill the foreign language requirement in the curriculum; and

Whereas: With a passion for theatre and sign language, Dr. Novak led and directed a performance of William Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night at USF after sixteen months of translating the screenplay to sign language; and

Whereas: He also led the production of Execution of Justice for three days in November 2003 in USF’s Presentation Theatre, honoring the twenty-fifth anniversary after San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Harvey Milk were fatally shot at City Hall by former supervisor Dan White; and

Whereas: Dr. Novak was named Vice Provost for Student Life in 2011, where in his role, he believed in creating programs and support that would encourage the holistic development of students centered around a social justice framework that would prepare students to be caring and ethical citizens locally and globally; and

Whereas: Among his contributions as Vice Provost, he had launched the Center for Academic and Student Achievement (CASA) that provided a center and mentors for students that ensured academic and personal growth at USF, the student Emergency Medical Response Service (EMRS), the Graduate Student Senate (GSS), improvement in student retention rates, led a campus wide team in the complete renovation of our New Student Orientation (NSO) programs and dramatically improved student engagement; and

Whereas: Dr. Novak, alongside ASUSF Senate created the Greek Expansion Committee that worked towards bring in new fraternities and sororities that aligned with USF’s mission, vision and values such as Kappa Alpha Theta, Pi Kappa Phi, Phi Delta Theta and Alpha Phi Alpha; and

Whereas: Under Dr. Novak’s leadership, he discovered that the existing substance abuse prevention program at the time was not influencing students in the right way and therefore created and implemented an online training program called Think About It that has quickly gained attention nationwide, adopted by 250 universities including Georgetown, Yale and Stanford University that educates college students about sexual violence and substance abuse; and
Whereas: Think About It has won national awards, including a Gold Excellence Award from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), and a Gold Stevie award for Best Training Site at the 11th Annual American Business Awards, recognizing the online training for excellence in design and content; and

Whereas: Dr. Novak has served as a conference speaker with Carol Day of Georgetown University, Cori Planagan from the University of Idaho, and Deeqa Mohammed, a Student Peer Educator at USF, to discuss how campuses can look beyond Title IX, Campus SaVE Act, and Drug Free Schools compliance to implement an interactive, innovative and engaging curriculum that focuses on both sexual violence and alcohol and drug abuse prevention; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Associated Students of San Francisco Senate, representing all the undergraduate students of the University: We proudly honor Dr. Novak and thank him for his immense contributions, continued dedication and ongoing commitment to the development of the students of the University of San Francisco; furthermore, be it

Resolved: We wish Dr. Novak all the best in his future endeavors and are hopeful to see his love for students continue when he returns to the classroom.

Submitted by: Eva Long, ASUSF President

Signed on this day, 7 April 2015:

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Eva Long
ASUSF Senate President