Increased Support for Undocumented College Students
Resolution 14-15-06

Whereas: Undocumented college students face unique obstacles in regards to enrolling in and graduating from college; and

Whereas: According to an academic journal article titled Undocumented Students and Higher Education there are 1.3 million undocumented immigrants between the ages of 18 and 24 and in 2003 only 13,000 undocumented students enrolled in postsecondary institutions; and

Whereas: The needs of undocumented college students has raised to national attention with President Obama’s recent, and controversial, executive order that would shield four to five million undocumented immigrants from deportation; and

Whereas: The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act has repeatedly failed to pass through the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate; and

Whereas: The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) has since taken the DREAM Act’s place; and

Whereas: The California State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 540 (AB 540) which "allows students to pay resident tuition fees; however, they still do not have access to state and federal financial aid programs;“ and

Whereas: USF teaches the value of social justice and the development of all students through its core values of “social responsibility in fulfilling the university’s mission to create, communicate and apply knowledge to a world shared by all people and held in trust for future generations” and “the full, integral development of each person and all persons, with the belief that no individual or group may rightfully prosper as the expense of others;” and

Whereas: The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), which was signed by the former USF President Fr. Privett, declared in a written statement, “we continue to affirm that Jesuit colleges and universities are morally committed environments, where our students are inspired and encouraged to understand and address issues of justice, fairness, political involvement, and a preferential option for those whom society has marginalized;“ and

Whereas: In January 2014, Fr. Privett asked Dr. Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, Vice Provost for Diversity Engagement and Community Outreach, to assemble a task force, chaired by Professor Genevieve Negrón-Gonzales as a step in addressing issues undocumented students face here at the University; and

Whereas: Under the leadership of Peter Novak, Vice Provost for Student Life, the Division of Student Life created a website as an effort to provide better information to undocumented students about services and resources available as a way to have more reliable and transparent means of receiving information and support; and

Whereas: The University has Cultural Centers (Intercultural Center and Gender and Sexuality Center) to provides services and programs to support students from underrepresented and underserved identities; and

Whereas: The University of Loyola Chicago approved the addition of $2.50 each semester to their Student Development fee to develop a Magis Scholars Fund to support undocumented Loyola undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need but do not qualify for federal financial aid; and
Whereas: Marquette University held a rally of more than 50 students, faculty, and community members to call for the administration to create a scholarship for undocumented students since many are not eligible for financial aid which leaves them in a vulnerable position when trying to reach higher education; and

Whereas: USF has expressed a commitment to providing a supportive environment where undocumented students will succeed and still more support is needed for these students; therefore, be it

Resolved by the ASUSF Senate of the University of San Francisco: That the University seeks to further support undocumented college students through services and programs for by existing departments including the Office of Diversity Engagement and Community Outreach and the Intercultural Center in order for students to have a safe place on campus to feel accepted regardless of their status; furthermore, be it

Resolved: Approve a referendum proposing an addition of $1.00 each semester to the Student Activity Fee to support undocumented Loyola undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need but do not qualify for federal financial aid (FAFSA), beginning in academic year 2017-18, to be placed on the ballot of University of San Francisco Student Elections in spring 2016 and voted on by the undergraduate student body of University of San Francisco.

Submitted by:  
Stefani McNamee, Vice President of Internal Affairs  
Nick Fragoso, Vice President of Sustainability  
Jonathan Munoz, student at-large

Signed on this day, (05 May 2015):

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Eva Long  
ASUSF President