**Resolution SS1718-07** **February 28. 2018**

KING FOK, CLUB COORDINATION COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DOMINIC ACRI, PRESIDENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF NOTRE DAME

# A RESOLUTION ADDRESSING THE CONCERNS OF THE STUDENT BODY ON THE LUIGI GREGORI MURALS

*Whereas*, the lack of proper context for the twelve Luigi Gregori Murals in the Main Building of the University of Notre Dame misrepresents the values of the University regarding on inclusivity, diversity, and religiosity through its portrayal of Native and Black people;

*Whereas*, the twelve eleven-foot murals collectively misrepresent the core tenants of the University and create an unwelcoming environment for incoming and current students at the University through its "heroic impression" of Christopher Columbus, a slave owner and founder of the transatlantic slave trade, as Fr. Edward Sorin, a former president of the University, and stereotypical depiction of Native and Black persons as slaves;

*Whereas*, the student body has called for its removal since the early 1990s, and in the present day over 607 incoming, current, and former students and faculty of the University and allies advocate for its removal from the main building with support from Native American Student Association, Native American Alumni Association, Department of Theology, American Studies, First Year Studies, History, Art, Africana Studies, Art History, Gender Studies, Anthropology, Political Science, Biology, English, Center for Social Concerns, Kaneb Center for Teaching Learning, Keough School of Global Affairs, and most notably the leaders, elders, and citizens from the local Pokagon band of Potawatomi Indians and 28 other Native American tribes. the local Pokagon tribe and over 10 other Native American Tribes;

*Whereas*, as a Catholic institution and as reiterated in the University Plan Goal to "Ensure that our Catholic character informs all our endeavors", the University of Notre Dame is responsible to uphold the dignity of every person as outlined in Catholic Social Teaching affirming the "transcendent dignity and worth of every human person, from conception to natural death, regardless of race, nationality or ethnic group, religious tradition, gender, socioeconomic class, immigration status, sexual orientation, or anything else";

*Whereas*, outlined in the The Spirit of Inclusion of Notre Dame, "The social teachings of the Catholic Church promote a society founded on justice and love, in which all persons possess inherent dignity as children of God" which the University upholds by stating to "condemn harassment of any kind" and to "consciously create an environment of mutual respect, hospitality and warmth in which none are strangers and all may flourish";

*Whereas*, Fr. John Jenkins called for all Notre Dame members to be "co-creators of a Notre Dame community that seeks to embody ever more fully the love that radiates from the heart of Christ and the welcome of his open arms", and to honor the invitation of Venite ad me omnes ("Come to me all of you") as inscribed on the statue of Jesus that stands before the Golden Dome and outlined in the University's Statement on Diversity and Inclusion;

*Resolved*, the University of Notre Dame Student Senate formally acknowledges and supports the concerns of the student body on its depiction of Native and Black people in the Luigi Gregori Murals, and requests the administration to remove the murals in the main building to a setting with more appropriate academic and historical context.

Rebecca Blais
*Student Body President*