

Proposition: 14-18/19

Title: A memorial to stop the proposed construction of a new Pistol Pete statue in the Triviz roundabout.

Date Submitted: January 29th, 2019

Sponsor(s): B. Corran (DACC), M. Hamzeh (A&S), C. Pelak (A&S), D. Pepion (A&S), M. Gurrola (HSS), D. Lara (A&S), J. Haynes Writer (EDUC), J. Flores Carmona (EDUC), P. Wojahn (A&S), L. Williams (A&S), C. Jonet (A&S), J. Maupin (A&S), Julia Parra (EDUC), David Ortiz (A&S), Mary Prentice (EDUC)

Proposed Committee: Long Range Planning

Assigned Committee: University Affairs

Prior Approvals: N/A

Proposal:

This is a memorial requesting that NMSU Administration does not construct a Pistol Pete statue at the soon-to-be-built roundabout on Triviz Drive, and instead build a participatory and transparent process through which NMSU community engages and votes on an alternative, creative, more original and uncontested or unopposed representations for the gateway to NMSU.

Rationale:

An early drawing of proposed construction on Triviz Drive (see below, as referenced in Panorama), as part of the new gateway to NMSU, includes a statue of the gun-toting outlaw Pistol Pete on a horse featured prominently in a proposed traffic circle. This proposal would enshrine a concrete, and problematic representation of NMSU as a colonial/racist/sexist institution build on a violent history and present. The statue of Pistol Pete itself will be the embodiment of a colonial, hypermasculine, and violent symbol, a representation disconnected from the mission of NMSU and offensive to NMSU community and the people of NM (Please see the attached scholarly testimonies and relevant articles).

Anchoring a contested and opposed statue of Pistol Pete at the new gateway to NMSU would be traumatic to many members of NMSU's community, especially Indigenous peoples, victims of gun violence, as well as women and gender non-conforming people. The architecture of the new gateway deserves to be part of a larger public conversation to help imagine then construct an entrance to NMSU as a welcoming, safe, state university.

<http://panorama.nmsu.edu/a-new-look/>