

Proposition: 14-18/19

Title: A memorial to ~~stop the proposed construction of a new Pistol Pete statue in the Triviz roundabout.~~ remove the Pistol Pete bench statue outside the west entrance to Corbett Student Center Student Union.

Date Submitted: January 29<sup>th</sup>, 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), N. Rosendorf (A&S), J. Parra (EDUC), D. Ortiz (A&S), M. Prentice (EDUC), C. Brown (A&S), M. A. Scott (A&S).

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.~~ that NMSU Administration remove the Pistol Pete bench statue in front of Corbett Center Student Union.

Rationale:

This Pistol Pete bench statue was installed on campus in violation of NMSU's ARP 12.50, Art, Archives and Other Collections.

In accordance with ARP 12.50 Part 4.A: "Art belonging to NMSU," the bench statue of Pistol Pete applies here because it is on "display in public buildings or places..." Part 4.C.2 regarding "Art committees" appears to indicate that the appropriate committee to review the process by which a statue of Pistol Pete came to be placed in front of Corbett Center would have needed to be **The University Cultural Collections Committee (ARP 12.50, Part 3)**. This committee is "a standing committee charged with approving the acquisition of art and other cultural collections available or offered to NMSU, and with decisions relating to the conservation and presentation of art and other objects in the cultural collections owned by the university" (ARP 12.5, Part 4.C.2). Finally, the **Local Selection Committee** should have been consulted, per: "The state's guidelines include the involvement of a Local Selection Committee, consisting of members **reflecting the cultural diversity of the community and with an interest in the project.** The membership typically includes a

representative from the users of the building, the owner representative or designee, an architect, an arts professional or community art representative, an artist not competing for the project, and up to two community or student representatives or a member of the Board of Regents (ARP 12.5, Part 9, B.).

~~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/>