

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

**Bill Number:** Senate Resolution #2018-17  
**Title:** Retirement of Prospector Pete and Dissociation from the Gold Rush Era  
**Sponsored by:** Senator for the College of Health and Human Services Leen Almahdi and Senator-at-Large Thulani Ngazimbi  
**Coauthored by:** Commissioner for Cultural Affairs Kyari Cail, Chief Diversity Officer Yasmin Elasmr, AISC Student Representative Miztlayolxochitl Aguilera, AISC Student Representative Chris Wright II  
**Date Submitted:** February 16, 2018  
**Date Approved:** March 7, 2018

- WHEREAS** the Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) Board of Directors at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is the recognized voice for over 37,000 students; and
- WHEREAS** the CSULB ASI mission states, “the Associated Students of CSULB seeks to facilitate the achievement of students’ educational objectives and life goals through programs, services, and facilities that advocate student needs and interests, compel student representation in campus decision making and provide students with resources that they identify as necessary for their intellectual, social and physical development;”<sup>1</sup> and
- WHEREAS** while discussing the Commission on Inclusive Excellence, President Conoley stated that, “Inclusive excellence requires a paradigm shift in thinking about equity, diversity, student learning and community success. This paradigm shift requires the identification, examination, and dismantling of existing mindsets/norms/regulations in higher education that serve as catalysts for marginalization, inequity, and intolerance;”<sup>2</sup> and
- WHEREAS** the Tongva Tribe has been indigenous to the Los Angeles Basin area including Long Beach, Ontario, Moreno Valley, and San Gabriel for over 7,000 years;<sup>3</sup> and
- WHEREAS** prior to the gold rush era, the people of the Tongva Tribe were enslaved by settlers to build missions in the greater Los Angeles area, therefore forced to assimilate;<sup>4</sup> and
- WHEREAS** in 1848 the California gold rush era began, this newfound means of wealth led to many advocating for California to be granted statehood;<sup>5</sup> and
- WHEREAS** this advocacy for statehood did not take into consideration how it would not only displace indigenous people but also result in their death and disregard the treaties put in place to protect them;<sup>6</sup> and
- WHEREAS** over 80% of the Indigenous American population were killed in the twenty years following the gold rush era due to malnutrition, enslavement, murder;<sup>7</sup> and
- WHEREAS** legally sanctioned massacres provided state funding to California miners and prospectors as incentives for murdering American Indians;<sup>8</sup> and

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.asicsulb.org/pages/asi-mission-statement>

<sup>2</sup> <http://web.csulb.edu/sites/president/2016/06/presidents-commission-for-inclusive-excellence/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.gabrielinotribe.org/historical-sites-1/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.gabrielinotribe.org/historical-sites-1/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://laist.com/2017/10/09/a-brief-history-of-the-tongva-people.php>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/genocide-slavery-and-las-role-in-the-decimation-of-native-californians>

<sup>7</sup> <https://ucrtoday.ucr.edu/25475>

<sup>8</sup> <https://portfolios.journalism.ku.edu/charles-perry/2016/05/11/21/>

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- WHEREAS** CSULB is built on top of the village of Puvungna; which is the birthplace of California Indigenous peoples' "religion" and the Tongva sacred site;<sup>9</sup> and
- WHEREAS** the near-extirmination of the Tongva Tribe was a result of the gold rush era;<sup>10</sup> and
- WHEREAS** the systematic oppression of Native Americans was perpetuated by stripping their basic rights to vote, own land or weapons, and testify in court of law;<sup>11</sup> and
- WHEREAS** multiple scholars have cited the California Prospectors, also known as the "49ers," as culpable in violent and genocidal acts against the indigenous people of California;<sup>12</sup> and
- WHEREAS** prospectors ('49ers') in California perpetuated colonization, white supremacy, racism, and exclusion ideals<sup>13</sup> not only against Indigenous American communities, but also women, people of color, and non-Protestant communities;<sup>14</sup> and
- WHEREAS** the gold rush era increased prejudice and discrimination to workers of color, resulting in many being physically attacked, targeted in political cartoons, subject to assault and robbery;<sup>15</sup> and
- WHEREAS** Rhodes Must Fall was a movement started by South African students in late 2015 to protest oppression of Blacks and the romanticization of Cecil Rhodes, who facilitated the slaughter of Black Africans and aided in laying the foundations for apartheid;<sup>16</sup> and
- WHEREAS** the role of student activists was vital in South Africa's Rhodes Must Fall Movement to counter imperialism and colonialism from being commemorated through statues and monuments;<sup>17</sup> and
- WHEREAS** fighting for "decolonized" education and justice is a vital part of the history student organizing,<sup>18</sup> as well as an important aspect of the liberation of marginalized communities everywhere; and
- WHEREAS** students of color, especially the Indigenous American students, have been calling for the removal of the Prospector Pete mascot, as well as its representative statue,<sup>19</sup> since the 1970s;<sup>20</sup> and
- WHEREAS** ASI recognizes the importance of students of all identities standing undivided against all forms of oppression, marginalization, and bigotry; and
- WHEREAS** protecting indigenous peoples from all forms of racism and educating the campus about how this mascot is racist and traumatizing<sup>21</sup> to members of our community, would be in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

<sup>9</sup> [http://web.csulb.edu/~eruvle/puvudoc\\_0000\\_about.html](http://web.csulb.edu/~eruvle/puvudoc_0000_about.html)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.history.com/news/californias-little-known-genocide>

<sup>11</sup> <http://explore.museumca.org/goldrush/fever16-di.html>

<sup>12</sup> Dr. Benjamin Madley in *An American Genocide: The United States and the California Indian Catastrophe* and Dr. Brendan Lindsay in *Murder State: California's Native American Genocide, 1846-1873*

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> "An American Genocide" Benjamin Madley Chapter...

<sup>15</sup> <http://explore.museumca.org/goldrush/fever16-di.html>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/03/28/395608605/why-south-african-students-say-the-statue-of-rhodes-must-fall>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/mar/16/the-real-meaning-of-rhodes-must-fall>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/mar/16/the-real-meaning-of-rhodes-must-fall>

<sup>19</sup> [http://web.csulb.edu/divisions/students/uosr/Campus\\_Tours/Hot\\_Spots\\_@\\_The\\_Beach/pete.htm](http://web.csulb.edu/divisions/students/uosr/Campus_Tours/Hot_Spots_@_The_Beach/pete.htm)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.daily49er.com/news/2017/09/13/csulb-mascot-prospecter-pete-continues-to-cause-debate/>

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf)

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- WHEREAS** CSULB is undergoing a rebranding process, so incorporating change to a mascot and replacing the statue at this time would be appropriate; and
- WHEREAS** Indigenous American students, faculty, and staff are a vital part of our community, and deserve the support and recognition of ASI in their attempts to liberate themselves from systematic oppression; now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that CSULB follows the example of Stanford University<sup>22</sup> and The University of Texas at Austin,<sup>23</sup> and remove mascots or monuments that offend and further disempower individuals of marginalized communities; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that CSULB completely dissociate itself and its auxiliaries from Prospector Pete and dissociate CSULB from all aspects that glorify the gold rush era; be it the mascot, merchandise, statues, promotional material, events, or phrase “49er;” and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the Prospector Pete statue be immediately relocated to the art galleries by Fine Arts 2 and 3, and in its place a recognition of our shameful previous association with prospectors; and be it further
- RESOLVED** a plaque detailing the accurate history of the icons of genocide:<sup>24</sup> Prospectors in California, and a permanent art installation be incorporated in the area where the Prospector Pete statue stands to empower and honor members of the Indigenous American community; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that all decisions moving forward are made with the input of the American Indian Student Council (AISC), ASI Commissioner for Cultural Affairs, Tongva Community, and other Indigenous American students; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that CSULB recognizes the historical oppression caused by prospectors in California and that educational material be provided to further explain the historical impact prospectors had and their role in the genocide of Native Americans and outline the reasons as to why the mascot and Prospector Pete statue had been retired; and be it further
- RESOLVED** a committee be formed with staff, faculty, general students, ASI Chief Diversity Officer, and Native American/Indigenous American student representatives to create a list of potential mascots to be voted on in a referendum; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the new mascot avoid taking on a “human persona” so that the mistake of appropriating another culture or offending another group on campus is not repeated; and be it finally
- RESOLVED** that an electronic copy of this resolution, upon approval by the ASI President be distributed to CSULB President Jane Conoley, Vice President for Student Affairs Carmen Taylor, Dean of Students Piya Bose, Vice President for University Relations and Development Andrea Taylor, CSU Chancellor Timothy White, Cal State Student Association, CSULB American Indian Student Council, Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communication Andy Hoang, all current and future ASI Officers, the Daily 49er, and 22 West Magazine.

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.gostanford.com/sports/2013/4/17/208445366.aspx>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.cnn.com/2017/08/21/us/ut-austin-confederate-statues-removed/index.html>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.daily49er.com/news/2017/09/13/csulb-mascot-prospector-pete-continues-to-cause-debate/>

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Sofia Musman

Sofia Musman, Vice President &  
Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:

Joseph Nino

Joseph Nino, Associated Students President

3/7/18  
Date

3/7/18  
Date

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