

Local

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Faculty and Staff

Interim chancellor named for UCSC

UC-Santa Cruz has a new chancellor — if only an interim one — the university announced this morning.

Karl S. Pister, 65, a former dean of UC-Berkeley's College of Engineering, has been named interim chancellor for up to two years, beginning this August. He will replace Chancellor Robert Stevens, who announced his resignation in January to join a Washington D.C.-based law firm.

Pister (pronounced "peester,") will earn \$150,000 annually.

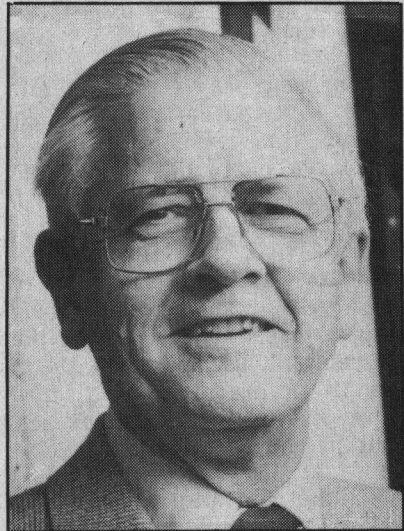
The UC Board of Regents approved the appointment at its meeting in Irvine today. UC President David Gardner said in a statement released by the university that Pister will bring to the campus "an extended and extensive acquaintance with the University of California, significant and successful administrative experience, and widespread respect for his scholarly achievements and committed interest in students."

Gardner said he was appointing an interim chancellor rather than beginning a lengthy recruitment for a permanent one "because a number of issues are coming to fruition at Santa Cruz, such as review of UCSC's colleges and an examination of the campus's long-range academic direction."

It is better to let the academic planning and direction take place first, and then to find someone "whose views and strengths are compatible with those plans," Gardner said.

Chancellor Stevens, who had been at the helm of the Santa Cruz campus for only four years when he resigned, has faced growing criticism for his handling of some campus matters. He was the fifth chancellor in the campus's relatively short history.

Pister is originally from Stockton. He earned a bachelor's and master's degree at UC-Berkeley, then a Ph.D. in theoretical and applied mechanics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-



Karl S. Pister

Champaign. He returned to UC-Berkeley in 1952 to join the Department of Civil Engineering.

In the years since then, he took on increasing responsibilities in faculty task forces and committees, research and instruction, and broad professional and academic service in the university and in the field of engineering.

These responsibilities included posts as chairman and vice chairman of both departmental and faculty senate units, and in 1979-1980 he held the top faculty post in university as chairman of the University-wide Academic Council and Assembly of the Academic Senate, and faculty representative to the regents.

During the 1980s, Pister served as dean of the College of Engineering, overseeing an annual budget of \$75 million, 2,300 undergraduate students, 1,500 graduate students, and 230 faculty.

Pister said he has been "part of the University of California family for most of my life" and that he was "deeply honored" by the appointment.

"The Santa Cruz campus is a unique resource of the university," he said, adding that he was looking forward to working with the faculty, staff, students and community leaders.