

UCSC enrollment hits target level

By JAMIE S. CACKLER
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — The University of California campus is expecting to have just 83 more students this fall than it had last year, officials announced Thursday.

UCSC has hit its self-imposed target of enrolling 1,900 freshmen, and will have about 620 transfer students from community colleges and other universities — about 20 more than the goal, said Admissions Director Joe Allen.

As long as the retention rate of last

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year's students doesn't take an unexpected turn, the campus should have about 9,235 students enrolled this fall, Allen said. Last fall, UCSC had 9,152 students.

Chancellor Robert Stevens also revealed that he had received word Thursday morning that UC President David Gardner "would like for us to take 111 more students next year (in the fall of '89.)"

After that year, the university would begin growing at a faster pace, Stevens said.

UC's Board of Regents is scheduled to meet in October to set growth rates and ultimate sizes of all of the university's campuses. Although that decision is still pending, campus and university system officials have frequently discussed having the Santa Cruz campus grow to 15,000 by the year 2004.

Allen said his office has been "struggling" to keep admissions in line with the

goal set by the chancellor last year.

Meeting the enrollment target involves a lot of complicated calculations and predictions, Allen says.

Thousands of students apply to the campus, but they may also be applying to other universities and UC campuses.

Allen's office must decide to how many students it should offer a place at UCSC. Officials must "guesstimate" how many students will turn down the offer and go somewhere else.

The number of students who accept

UCSC's offer and then actually show up late September is called the "yield."

Allen said that UCSC has become much more popular campus among U applicants, at the same time as the campus has faced pressure to hold its growth down. UCSC turned away about 4,000 qualified students this year — pointing them in the direction of other UC campuses, he said. "It's a perverse law that the more students you turn away, the more want to get in," Allen said.

While UCSC severely restricted admission of new freshmen, it is honoring a pact with California community colleges to accept all qualified transferring students, he said.

Allen also said that UCSC managed to increase the number of non-white students who are being admitted to UCSC. About 26 percent of the incoming students — including freshman, transfers and graduate students — are non-white students, Allen said. Some 17 percent of the students are from "under-represented" minority ethnic groups, which include blacks, Hispanics, American Indians and Filipinos.

In addition to the faster growth rate on the horizon, Stevens said that the campus and community can expect to see another change in UCSC's constitution: more graduate students.

"In later years," Stevens said, the campus "will shift significantly toward more graduate students." But he also said the campus will keep its commitment to provide strong undergraduate teaching.

Geoff Pullum, dean of graduate studies, said he and other officials want to see UCSC "move up" from its current level of 600 graduate students, and add more doctorate-level programs.

UCSC delays growth plan's release

By JAMIE S. CACKLER
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SANTA CRUZ — Release of UC Santa Cruz's long-delayed growth plan and matching environmental study will be put off until late November, UCSC Chancellor Robert Stevens informed the city by letter Thursday.

City Councilwoman Mardi Wormhoudt said she was "dismayed" at the latest delay, and said it will do little to reassure the community that the university is taking seriously public concern over growth.

The long-range development plan is supposed to guide campus construction as UCSC moves toward enrollment of up to 15,000 students by the year 2005. This fall, the campus expects to have 9,235 students.

The planning document and environmental study originally were supposed to be released last summer. But the release was delayed

while the university collected and responded to public comment on growth plans.

A new release date fell through when university system officials pulled the documents back for rewriting and review by UC attorneys.

They cited two reasons for the pullback: fear of litigation and a need for system-wide growth planning.

Officials said the university wants to prevent more lawsuits and attacks from the city of Santa Cruz, like the city's 1987 lawsuit to block construction of UCSC's College Eight.

University officials also said they wanted to put the UCSC growth plan in a format that will become a

model for other UC campus growth plans, so the UC regents and planners can compare them and make better system-wide decisions.

In his letter to Mayor John Laird, Stevens wrote that the latest delay was called because university officials want more research done in certain areas of the plan, especially on city traffic.

University spokeswoman Stephanie Hauk said university officials thought that the traffic studies used in the long-range plan were too old, and they want new ones prepared.

Stevens wrote that the new traffic study will begin in October, after students return to campus.

Wormhoudt said the latest delay in releasing the campus growth

plan will not help the university Nov. 8, when county voters consider a measure calling for slow university growth. The measure's language gives local government officials permission to do whatever they feel is necessary to hold back campus growth.

"I'm really dismayed that there is one more delay in release of the (growth plan)," Wormhoudt said, "especially since there is an initiative on the November ballot" regarding growth.

Releasing the plan, Wormhoudt said, "is one thing which could have reassure the community ... whether in fact the university is going to mitigate the impacts of the growth it anticipates in the next 15 years or so."

REFERENCE

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL
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UCSC
to 1990