

# UCSC mulls change

## Plan shifts focus to grad students

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SANTA CRUZ — As UC Santa Cruz grows, the faculty is recommending the university establish job-oriented professional schools — starting with a school of engineering — and increase graduate research programs.

It is a change in direction for the university, which has focused on liberal arts and science programs in the past.

"We essentially have no professional schools," said Jorge Hankamer, associate academic vice chancellor and professor of linguistics. "This brings a better balance to the university. The range of types of people attracted will be broader."

What is at stake is the academic future and character of university as it plans to grow by a third to an enrollment of 15,000 students in the year 2005.

On Wednesday, the UCSC Academic Senate will vote on whether to accept a far-reaching planning statement produced by a senate committee, which includes the following recommendations:

- **Increase graduate student numbers from 7.4 percent to 20 percent of enrollment — 3,000 students — by 2005.** This would require founding several professional schools to draw large numbers of graduate students.

Bigger graduate programs also would mean more faculty, with as many as 450 new faculty members to be hired by 2005, as well as founding research programs and sources of funding to support the graduate students.

- **Professional schools are central to the future of UCSC,** according to the report, beginning with a School of Engineering, with others to follow, most likely in environmental studies, or possibly in architecture or education.

The university has formally submitted an application for the engi-

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neering school, and is only two steps away from approval, officials said.

Professional schools in law and medicine are not possible at UCSC, officials said.

"Medical schools are not practical without a research hospital and you can't have a research hospital without more people around," Hankamer said. "Law school projections indicate California doesn't need any more lawyers — that plenty are already being produced by existing schools."

• **Boost the college system,** possibly founding a college for graduate students and for bilingual students and faculty.

The study recommendations are general in most cases, but will serve as the "headlights" to guide the university's way, according to Todd Wipke, a chemistry professor who chairs the senate's Committee of Planning and Budget.

"Basically this sets out the principles on which we are going to grow as a university," Wipke said.

"There may come a time when students become interested in practical, useful things, and liberal arts may become unpopular. It happened at UCSC in the '70s — we were losing students. By investing (in professional schools), it's like having a balanced portfolio."

Wipke said the investment won't come at the expense of undergraduate liberal arts programs, but would ensure future growth.

The academic direction UCSC takes will determine what sort of student attends, what construction occurs and influence of the school within the University of California system when it comes to money and resources.

A major factor in the push for graduate programs is the competition among campuses for funding.

UC allocates resources under a formula that provides graduate

students nearly three times the resources awarded undergraduates, mainly due to the level of their research.

"The main impact is that the student-faculty ratio gets better," Hankamer said. "When you look at the campuses, UC Riverside has about the same number of students (as UCSC) but almost 50 percent more faculty."

Historically, UCSC has focused on undergraduate education in the liberal arts and sciences — programs that don't draw large numbers of graduate students. Changing that focus may not be easy.

In the senate study, Jim Gill, acting dean of graduate studies and research, wrote, "I think this history (of undergraduate focus) is sufficiently entrenched and beneficial that it will always limit our research infrastructure relative to

UC norms. Good teachers often are not good entrepreneurs, and vice versa."

Hankamer agreed, saying, "It is rather difficult to change percentages (of graduate students) in a graceful fashion."

When looking for a professional school, the campus must rely upon its strengths, the senate report concluded, including the natural resources and environment of the Monterey Bay.