

# UCSC <sup>-Growth</sup> returns to roots

New guidelines OK'd for long-range growth

By KATHERINE EDWARDS  
Sentinel staff writer 3-7-94

SANTA CRUZ — If the planners at UC Santa Cruz have their way, the campus of the future will be much more like the one envisioned in the past.

Its heart would belong to walkers and bicyclists, with cars kept at bay. A latticework of paved, well-lit paths and bridges would link its four corners for quicker trips across campus.

Buildings would never climb above the treetops. Most would be built on parking lots or condensed in central spaces where the forest and grasslands have already been disturbed.

Meyer Drive, a key road on campus, would be extended as planned, but it would not tear through the sweeping expanse of the Great Meadow.

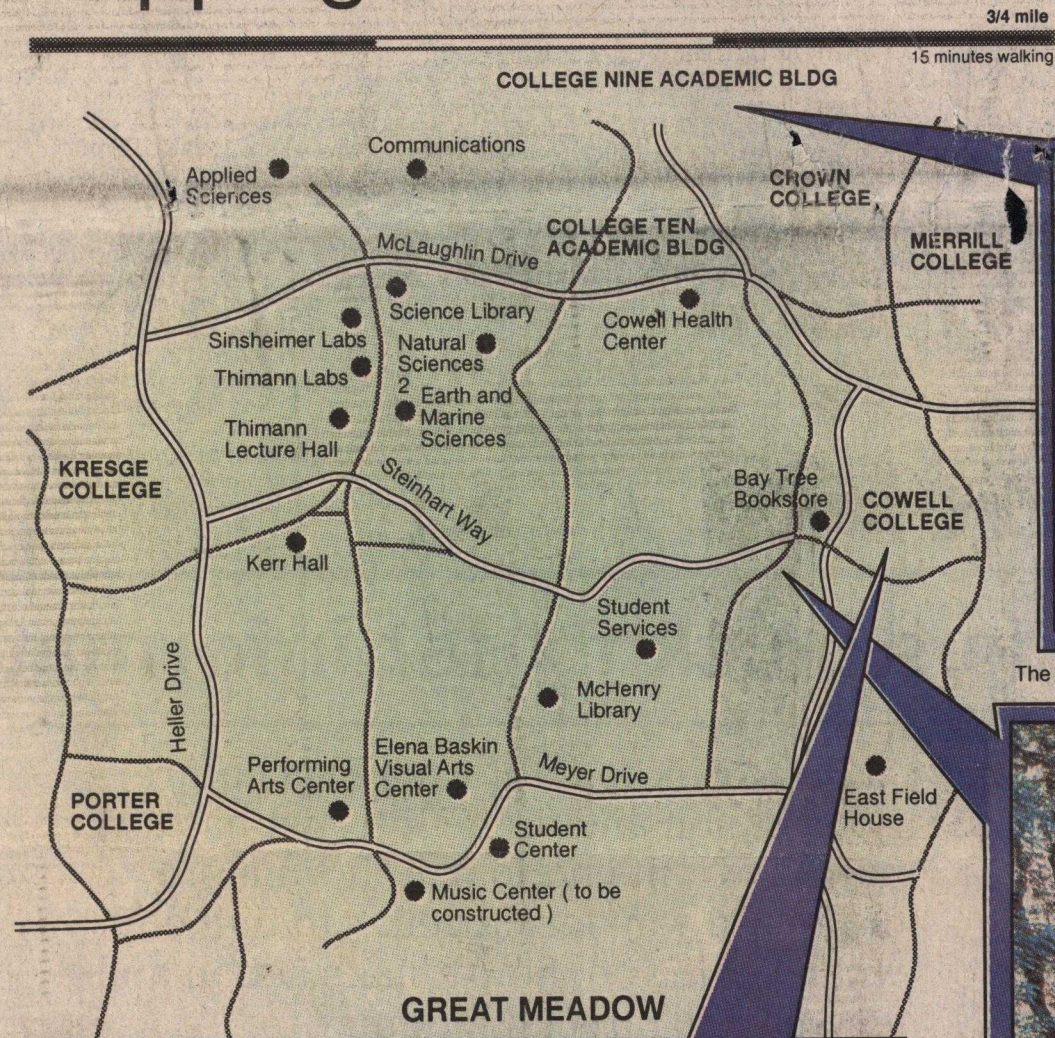
These guidelines, the latest addition to the university's long-range development plan, were applauded and unanimously adopted by the Academic Senate last month.

At a campus where most of the construction in recent years has been met with angry protest, faculty and staff say the new guidelines won their support because they respect the unique setting of the campus, and return to the original vision founders had for the university.

"This is an ecologically oriented plan and it really fits the tenor of the times and of the institution," said Pavel Machotka, chairman of UCSC's Academic Senate. "... Five years ago, there was a tendency to go at (development) a little heavily. This goes back to the original spirit."

It has been 30 years since UCSC's planners first sat down to sketch a long-term vision of what the university should look like. One of the last campuses built by the state's university system, planners knew they had two tremendous strengths to sell: the unusual beauty of the hilltop location and the experimental nature of a campus based on independent under-

# UCSC Mapping the future



The new guidelines propose a network of redesigned roadways and paths that would make it easier to cross campus quickly and would give first priority to bikes, pedestrians and mass transit.

Both Meyer Drive and Steinhart Way would become direct east-west routes, with restricted daytime traffic. New construction would be in clusters and concentrated in the center of campus.

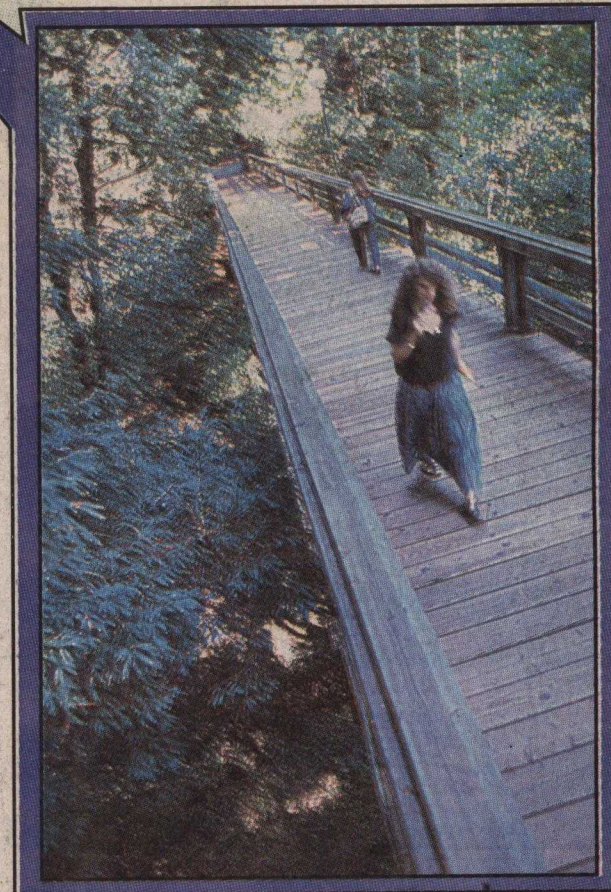
For the first time, long-term plans include a set of principles for maintaining the wildlife habitats on campus as naturally as possible - including protection for meadows, forests and canyons.



The new College Nine academic building is nearly complete.



Cowell College is seen as a good example of building in clusters.



More bridges should be used to link paths across canyons.

Photos by Shmuel Thaler

Chris Carothers/Sentinel

# UCSC long-range plan

Continued from Page A1

graduate colleges.

In his 1965 charter address, Ansel Adams called UCSC "a fresh idea," and warned that the end result would need to be "fresh in spirit and firm in hope."

The main goals then were to respect the campus surroundings, concentrate large-scale construction in the center, and create colleges that were intimate communities of students and faculty.

Development was set on a human scale, rather than the steel towers and paved courtyards that mark most modern campuses.

Those ideas were carried forward to 1988, when the university's long-range development plan was updated. But that plan was designed primarily to decide which sections of land should or shouldn't be developed, said Graham Bice, senior planner for UCSC.

"It didn't say how we create places with meaning," said Bice. "Memorable and distinct and vital places."

The newly approved guidelines, hammered out by consultants through two years of forums and meetings, take the next step by suggesting how the campus should do just that, Bice said.

"We were surprised when we looked back to '63 and saw how many of the concepts were used then," said Bice. "This (implementation plan) is a reaffirmation of the dreams the campus was founded on. I think they just weren't expressed or weren't part of the discussion for a while."

It has been a struggle for the 10,000-student campus to reconcile plans to grow to 15,000 students by the year 2005 with the desire to protect the natural environment that makes UC Santa Cruz unique.

Attempts to build thoughtfully to date, planners agree, have been hit

and miss. For example, the student center south of McHenry Library, built five years ago, was envisioned as a place where students would retreat, study, and enjoy the sweeping views of the bay across the Great Meadow.

But the center was built away from the campus bookstore and other buildings that draw most student traffic. Now, on any given day, the center is often deserted.

In 1991, a proposed \$10 million music center was approved for construction on the northern edge of the Great Meadow, a location that was hotly protested by those who wanted to see the natural up-hill sweep of grassland preserved. The designs were later scaled back, and although some objections remain, construction should start by next spring.

By comparison, the recently completed earth and marine science building and science library proved to be the keystones for an airy central plaza among the science buildings north of Steinhart Way, and have helped create a popular place where students gather to talk between class or to study.

"There was a more heavy handed central planning by the previous administration," said Machotka. "The present administration has been much more in touch with the faculty and is now consulting on major plans rather than riding roughshod."

It took some persuading to get students and staff who felt burned by past projects involved with shaping the latest guidelines for growth, according to Bice.

The catalyst, he said, was Chancellor Karl Pister.

When Pister arrived three years ago, the campus was in full fury over the idea of extending Meyer Drive through one of the most visible and natural characteristics of the campus.

## New UCSC colleges, music facility on way

SANTA CRUZ — Here are the major construction projects approved or under way at UC Santa Cruz, according to Frank Zwart, assistant vice chancellor for physical planning and construction:

● **COLLEGES NINE AND TEN** — Set north of McLaughlin Drive, the colleges will serve about 2,000 students. Construction on the \$8.5 million College Nine is nearly finished and

should be in use by the start of spring quarter. It will house faculty offices, classrooms and research space, and the anthropology and economics departments. College 10, slowed by the heavy rains after excavation, should be done by spring 1995. Construction costs for the academic building, which will hold the psychology department, research space, classroom and offices, are estimated at \$11 million.

● **MUSIC FACILITY** — This

project includes rehearsal and teaching space, a 60-seat music lab, and a 400-seat recital hall off Meyer Drive at the top of the Great Meadow.

Construction could begin in May and be completed by fall of 1995. Cost is estimated at \$10 million.

Working drawings are being prepared on several other additions to the campus art complex, including new painting and

sculpting studios, a 200-seat experimental theater, and a 400-seat lecture hall equipped for high-quality projection.

The additions would be between the Elena Baskin Visual Arts Studios and the Performing Arts Center to link the two into a larger complex, said Zwart.

Zwart said funding for those additions depend on the passage of a statewide bond measure that has yet to be placed on a ballot.

At the same time, the design for the music facility had just been rejected, and logging to clear land for the newest colleges Nine and 10 was lurking in the background.

"I saw right away that every single project that came along created controversy," Pister said. "... There just wasn't good communication with the absence of a clear plan. It emphasized the need to make planning the major concern in my administration."

On the advice of students and faculty, Pister called for the music center to be redesigned, and imposed a moratorium on the Meyer Drive project and any new construction until a definitive physical plan was in place.

Three advisory committees of students, faculty, staff and consultants were set up. Berkeley Professor Richard Bender, who had helped shape the Berkeley and Davis campuses, was hired to lead the planning process.

The collaborative approach they took proved popular, said Pister.

"The consultants did their homework. They went back to the original plan, they walked the campus," he said. "They got this kind of support because they bothered to go out and really listen to people."

If followed in years to come, the new guidelines would soothe several long-standing sore spots in the debate over how the campus should grow.

For the first time, the long-term plans include instructions on how to maintain the wildlife habitats on campus as naturally as possible — including restoring native species of plants and animals.

The guidelines also mandate that specific boundaries for the campus' expansive meadows be set and not be crossed.

"Other than those (projects) in planning now, we should be able to meet our needs without expanding into the meadows," said Bice. Campus forests and canyons are afforded the same care.

Past plans to extend Meyer Drive through the Great Meadow would be replaced with a design that would wrap the road around the back of the student center and connect it to Hagar Drive and the

east athletic fields by two bridges.

To be a good plan for the future of UCSC, Bice said, the new guidelines also had to include "big dreams."

The plan has its share. Among suggested projects are a new bookstore and commercial shops near the sight of the present Bay Tree bookstore. That idea is already being worked on by a committee, he said.

Others are a new wing to McHenry Library, a new child care center near family student housing, and preliminary ideas for parking structures, a new north entrance to campus off Empire Grade, and extensive native landscaping stretching from the west entrance of campus along Heller Drive and Moore Creek.

When it comes to talking about when specific projects could happen, Bice said, big dreams run up against the reality of scarce funding.

Since 1991, UCSC has cut more than \$15 million from its \$165 million operating budget. With little growth in enrollment the last few years, plans to build student residences at colleges Nine and 10 have been put on hold for lack of students to fill them.

The new planning guidelines recognize tight times by encouraging future planners to look at the campus' colleges in groups, so adjacent ones could share kitchens, cafes, classroom space and could consolidate academic programs into adjacent colleges.

Whether the grand ideas laid out in the guidelines come to fruition will be up to future generations, said Pister.

"I hope we're bold enough to have a vision that transcends our own lifetime," he said. "I hope it will be enough for the people of the state to see the treasure we have here."

## What plan proposes for campus growth

Here are some of the specific guidelines included in the implementation plan:

### CONSTRUCTION

● Cowell College is held out as a good example of clustering college buildings together to balance living and classroom space and keep a "village" feel.

● The guidelines keep long-range plans to build a new college for every additional 1,000 students. If UCSC does head toward its goal of growing to 15,000 students by the year 2005, proposed colleges 11 and 12 would need to be built, according to senior planner Graham

the east and west sides of campus. Access to cars would be restricted to weekends and after hours.

● Another suggestion is for Steinhart Way to be redirected through to Heller Drive and become a one-way thoroughfare, which would allow half of the road to be given over to bikes and walkers.

● New parking spaces would not be added, except to replace what could be lost if new buildings are constructed over existing ones. A recent parking study showed only

80 percent of spaces on campus are used regularly now. Most parking will be limited to the campus periphery.

● Nature walks are suggested to educate visitors and students about the campus habitats. Bice said the university is looking at creating a portfolio of private donors to pay for those projects, as well as for restoring the natural growth along the western entrance, or for improving the overlook to Pogonip.

Katherine Edwards

a "village" feel.

● The guidelines keep long-range plans to build a new college for every additional 1,000 students. If UCSC does head toward its goal of growing to 15,000 students by the year 2005, proposed colleges 11 and 12 would need to be built, according to senior planner Graham Bice. However, enrollment has been holding fairly steady at around 10,000 students, he said.

● Several sections of land away from the heart of campus are earmarked for neighborhoods of homes for faculty, staff and students. Two key parcels that had been identified in the 1988 long-range plan now are being strongly discouraged for development — one near the main entrance and another in the fields below Oakes College.

### TRANSPORTATION

● The guidelines do not address whether a controversial eastern access to the campus, through the adjacent Pogonip property, would be built.

● A grid of paths to better connect colleges and central campus should be as level and accessible as possible, to meet requirements for disabled students and visitors.

● A system of "ladder roads" — Meyer Drive, Steinhart Way and McLaughlin Drive — will connect

ers.

● New parking spaces would not be added, except to replace what could be lost if new buildings are constructed over existing ones. A recent parking study showed only

well as for restoring the natural growth along the western entrance, or for improving the overlook to Pogonip.

*Katherine Edwards*