

Manufacturing emphasis proposed for UCSC center

By JOHN McNICHOLAS
Sentinel Staff Writer

A soon-to-be-released report shows the proposed research facility at UCSC could be a profitable undertaking if more space is used for manufacturing than for research, a university official told the Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon Wednesday.

The market feasibility plan, prepared by David Dowall of San Francisco's Land Economics Group, should be completed and released to the public by the end of next week, said Wendell Brase, UCSC vice chancellor for finance, planning and administration.

Dowall and his group queried professors and possible investors to determine what sorts of research could be pursued at maximum academic and financial benefit. The three most likely areas "on the cutting edge" are biotechnology, computers and software, and scientific instrumentation such as that used by physicists and by astronomers at Lick observatory, Brase said.

In an oral report Monday, according to Brase, Dowall said 60 percent of the facility would have to be used for production and 40 percent for research.

Earlier plans for the 50-acre development called for no production, then for just the opposite of Dowall's current estimate — 60 percent research and 40 percent production.

But the feasibility study says the type of firms likely to lease space in the planned development are in such fast-moving fields they cannot afford to separate research and development facilities.

Brase said weapons-related research, with its secrecy, is antithetical to the project's goal of "constructive linkage" between academic research, teaching and the private sector. Such research and development will not be a part of the development if it is built, he said; "I think I read Chancellor Sinsheimer pretty clearly on this."

Another change is the number of employees per 1,000 square feet has been doubled, from two to four. The industries envisioned need less space for equipment,

Brase said.

The favorable market feasibility report is one of three areas in which planning is progressing; the others are environmental impact data-gathering and master planning.

A steering committee of faculty, administrators, students and community members are overseeing the preliminary data-gathering process.

The firm doing master plan studies is the same that did original master plans for the campus, Brase said.

Three sites are being considered for the project: on the southwest and southeast campus, and behind the fire station near Crown College to the Applied Sciences building. The far north campus is without utilities, and difficult to use for such a development, Brase said.

Environmental Studies Professor James Pepper, on leave from teaching duties, has been hired to investigate the environmental impacts of the proposed development, including those on housing, traffic and access.

Preliminary projections last spring

showed a potential workforce of 1,200 people could be employed, with payroll of \$60 million by 1992; some \$1 million in property taxes could be generated annually, according to the projections, after the seven years needed to complete the center.

There is no universitywide policy on actual percentages of income generated at one campus staying to benefit that campus, but policy states the campus "will be rewarded for initiative." Sinsheimer has made it clear to the Regents, Brase said, that those promised rewards are his motivations for pursuing the research and development center.

A faltering state and national economy coupled with post-proposition 13 cutbacks have made it necessary for university campuses, competing with each other for diminishing education dollars, to generate income to support programs and capital development, Brase told the chamber members.

A public forum is scheduled for Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. at Nelson Center to discuss the proposed center.