

# City accuses UCSC of going back on promise

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SANTA CRUZ — Relations between the City Council and UC Santa Cruz have taken a turn for the worse, as the City Council has accused UC Santa Cruz of reneging on a slow-growth proposal.

Council members Tuesday also challenged the terms of a planned summit meeting between UCSC Chancellor Robert Stevens and Mayor John Laird, saying that the meeting to discuss future campus enrollment should not be private, as the university wishes, but open to the public and press.

"If the university doesn't want to have an open meeting, have them tell the public why," Councilman Mike Rotkin said.

The council voted unanimously to send a letter outlining its concerns to the university administration, then directed the city attorney to determine whether

campus enrollment growth is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

The chancellor was out of town Wednesday.

But a spokesman for the chancellor said Stevens and Laird were scheduled to have a dinner meeting tonight to discuss the enrollment projections and the terms of their followup to the city-campus forum. The spokesman said the chancellor indicated it would be "awkward and undiplomatic" for him to comment before his meeting with Laird.

In October, UC Chancellor Stevens told the council he would push for a plan to limit campus growth to 170 new students per year for the next six years. The plan was aimed at allowing the campus to catch up with current enrollment, which is already too large for campus facilities. Following the six years of slow growth, the campus would have started adding students at a high rate, perhaps 700 a

year, to reach 12,000 to 15,000 enrollment by 2005, under the proposal. There are currently about 9,000 students at UCSC.

But the slow-growth plan may be aborted by pressure from UC Regents and some campus faculty, who want to see UC Santa Cruz on a faster track.

University and campus administrators have repeatedly stated that all enrollment projections are only tentative and subject to approval by the Regents. In October, the Regents are slated to complete a final, comprehensive growth plan for the entire UC system, including the possibility of building additional campuses.

In a letter to the council, Mayor Laird said that the university is on the verge of enrolling 195 students next year, and 400 or more for each of the following three years.

"We're in a horrible position," said Laird. "The city is one of three pressure groups, and pressure is rewarded, not

common sense or cooperation."

The City Council opposes campus growth because additional students put pressure on the local housing market, roads, sewer and water services. Because state agencies do not pay local property taxes, the city claims that the cost for improvements falls on local residents.

"This City Council is divided on all kinds of issues," Rotkin said. "But we've been 7-0 on all issues of university growth."

Council members expressed frustration that a well-publicized public hearing on city-university issues was dominated by speakers from the campus community. Both the public hearing and the summit meeting are called for in an out-of-court settlement under which the city agreed to drop a lawsuit challenging the College Eight development project on campus.

In the College Eight lawsuit, the city charged the university with violating the California Environmental Quality Act.

UCSC - Growth