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UCSC faculty approves *Faculty and Staff* 'spousal benefits' policy

A "Family Benefits Resolution" which would grant spousal benefits to unmarried couples and same-sex domestic partners was endorsed unanimously yesterday by the Academic Senate at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

The resolution urges that unmarried domestic partners get the same benefits that married couples have in such areas as insurance, health benefits, and privileges on campus, said Nancy Stoller, acting provost at Kresge College, who was on a committee that recommended the policy.

The policy would apply mainly to the faculty and staff. The main impact of the resolution on students is that "it would allow them to wait in line for married-student housing" like everybody else does now.

The measure now goes to UCSC Chancellor Robert Stevens, who has the power to approve the policy for campus benefits, such as library-card privileges for spouses and reduced-cost recreation passes.

Stevens does not have any power on approving the policy for material benefits, such as health coverage. The resolution, and similar actions from other campuses in the UC system will be forwarded to the UC Board of Regents.

Stoller said the policy is in keeping with the regents' 1983 policy opposing discrimination based on sexual preference.