

3/17/83

UC budget threat

SACRAMENTO (AP) — A legislator protesting against the \$150,000 salary of new University of California President David Gardner says the UC regents may be endangering their budget with "arrogance."

"The timing is incredible at best," Assemblyman Steve Peace, D-Chula Vista, said at a news conference Wednesday.

"It reflects a lack of sensitivity on the part of the Board of Regents to the state's financial situation."

Peace said the regents Friday will consider a \$167 increase in annual student fees while also considering raises for campus chancellors and other top university officials.

Backed by the UC Student Lobby, Peace introduced ACR60, a resolution that would put the Legislature on record as opposing Gardner's salary.

The legislation would have no force of law and could not affect the salary that was awarded Gardner by the regents when they hired him March 2.

Gardner, 49, president of the University of Utah, will succeed David Saxon, who is leaving June 30 to become chairman of the corporation in charge of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Saxon's UC salary was \$94,265.

Dean Watkins, head of the regents' committee that recommended Gardner, said the salary was comparable to those paid by other high-

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quality universities. The president also gets free use of a house in Berkeley. UC spokeswoman Sarah Molla said Gardner's pay at Utah was about the same, counting fringe benefits.

Peace and Richard Bernhardt, of the Student Lobby at UC Davis, said the salary actions were particularly disturbing in light of the student fee increase and the possibility that teachers will get no raises this year because of the state's money shortage.

"We're not trying to be punitive," said Peace, a UC Davis graduate. "This makes it difficult to deal with the budget process and to deal with the problems that the university legitimately has in an equitable way."

He said the regents' action on Gardner's salary and those being considered Friday would affect his vote on the university budget, and he has heard other legislators say the same thing.

Peace and Bernhardt said they had learned that the chancellors and other top university officials were in line for raises of 20 to 30 percent. The nine chancellors now make \$80,000 to \$110,000 a year and also get free housing.

Ms. Molla would confirm only that the regents would consider salary increases for those officials in closed-door session, and announce their actions publicly afterward. She said the chancellors' last raise was 3 percent last July.