

UCSC faculty wants weapons ties ended

By JOHN McNICHOLAS
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SANTA CRUZ — UCSC faculty representatives voted Wednesday to sever the university's ties with nuclear-weapons laboratories the university manages for the federal government in Los Alamos, N.M., and Livermore.

The Faculty Senate voted 48-2, with two abstentions, to pass a resolution urging UC President David S. Saxon to sever the relationship with the labs because "we do not believe that it is a part of the university's mission to be involved with the design and development of weapons."

The university cannot realistically oversee or control what goes on at the labs,

the resolution states. Sociology Professor Dane Archer, one of the resolution's three authors, said, "It is time to push the labs back into the civilian realm, where they can't hide behind the university."

The resolution's framers said UC lends an aura of power, respectability and scientific and academic detachment to the labs' real managers, the military.

Saxon, who spoke to the senate but left before the resolution was discussed, refused to comment on its passage.

UC faculty members started both labs, and the university has managed them for the government since their inceptions.

"At the end of World War II, the government was wrestling with the ques-

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tion of where control should lie for the Los Alamos lab," where the first atomic bomb was developed, said University News Officer Sarah Molla in Berkeley Thursday. "It decided control should rest within the civilian and not the military sector, and the university was asked by the government to manage the labs."

UC faculty member Ernest Lawrence started the Livermore Lab in 1952, she said.

Some 50 to 60 percent of the research at the labs is weapons related, said UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer, a critic of the laboratory ties who joined the vote in favor of the resolution Wednesday.

Critics, including faculty, students, and then-governor Jerry Brown have tried and failed since 1970 to cut the university loose from weapons research, or to gain what they see as real control over what goes on in the labs.

The Berkeley Faculty Senate voted unofficially this month for more access to classified weapons information and more influence regarding the military, political and economic consequences of weapons research, The San Francisco Examiner reported.

The university now manages the labs for the federal Department of Energy. The current contract, approved in 1981, is in effect until 1987. Under it, the government pays a \$5-million management fee. Of that amount, \$3 million goes to the state and \$2 million to the university, resolution backers said.

Resolution author Bill Mathews, professor of astronomy and astrophysics, said this morning the university is in over its head.

"It has to be understood the university's name is being used to lend stature to everything they do," he said. "I think they're misusing this privilege. And a lot of people also feel this is not something universities normally do — that is, to make atomic bombs.

"Is the Sorbonne doing this? Is Oxford? Is Cambridge?"

"We don't produce them," said Molla. "We do develop and design them.

"We manage the labs as a public service," she said. "If we did not manage them, somebody else would. They would not cease to exist. We believe that by managing them, you get more openness in those laboratories than if the military were managing them. It goes along with the civilian control of the military, one of the founding beliefs in the establishment of this country."

That control is only nominal, Mathews said.

"Can the University of California control the Pentagon?" he asked.

Instead, he said, the university's stature is used to lobby behind closed doors in Washington against test-ban treaties and for development of weapons such as the neutron bomb and the Cruise Missile.

The resolution will be sent to faculty senates at the eight other UC campuses. It will be voted on, and if approved, sent on to the Board of Regents.