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UC-Santa Cruz Chancellor-designate Robert Stevens at introductory press conference

New chancellor visits UC campus

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UC-Santa Cruz Chancellor designate Robert Stevens visited UCSC yesterday and held an introductory press conference.

Stevens, to become chancellor July 1, said he was not acquainted well enough with the university and the community to discuss specific issues.

"I've been on the campus for all of four days — at the most five days," he said. "I'm really just trying to learn at this stage."

Stevens said if he discussed possible campus changes at this stage, "I would be pretentious, and you should dismiss me."

Although Stevens would not comment specifically on university growth and the university's relationship with the community, he said he will try to keep the community

informed of university actions.

"My real interest is that the lines of communication stay open," he said. He added, however, that the university will probably grow with the UC system.

The English-born chancellor designate, 53, will be coming to Santa Cruz from Haverford College in Pennsylvania where he is president.

Stevens, a lawyer, said he would like to teach at UCSC.

"As an administrator, it's a wonderful thing to teach," he said. "In the president's office, you tend to meet only the student politicians or the students who have something to talk about. That's not the majority of the students."

Stevens said students will be heard when he becomes chancellor.

"I don't believe that a university is a democracy," he said. "But I do believe you listen to everyone very carefully before making any decision."

Stevens will be in Santa Cruz until Thursday evening, acquainting himself with the campus and the community.

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