UCSC - Faculty

Peaceful End To UC Protest

A two-day demonstration at the office of UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer ended peacefully Friday afternoon with a

rally attended by 250 persons.

As many as 100 protestors had spent two nights in a sit-in at the Chancellor's office in McHenry Library to protest a recent decision by Sinsheimer to fire a popular assistant professor, Nancy Shaw, from the school's community studies program.

Before leaving; the protestors vacuumed the offices and left notes for the campus secretaries whose work they had disrupted. The notes let the secretaries know who to call in case anything was found missing, said Tom O'Leary, campus public information officer.

O'Leary described the protestors as "very peaceful, respectful and considerate" and said an "exchange of ideas" took place about University issues.

At the start of the demonstration two days ago, Chancellor Sinsheimer let it be known to the protestors that they would not be arrested for participating in the sit-in.

At the rally, speaker Marge Frantz, a campus lecturer in American Studies and History, saluted the protestors and told them history is changed by people like them, who are willing to put time and energy into their beliefs.

The Sentinel

Sunday, May 30, 1982 Santa Cruz, Calif.—37

Other speakers were Santa Cruz County Supervisor Gary Patton; Carolyn Clark, an assistant professor of anthropology, and Roz Spafford, a teacher in the campus writing program who is also a representative of the local American Federation of Teachers union.

Hilary Fielding, a spokesman for an ad hoc committee formed to protest Shaw's firing, said the protestors have asked — in a list of seven demands to the administration — that the tenure process be changed to "become more accessible to campus scrutiny."

They have asked for the formation of a committee to look at changing the tenure process, and to report back by June of next school year.

Critics of the tenure process maintain it is too cumbersome and reminiscent of feudalism, in which Mediaeval societies were based on relationships between lords and vassals.

In Shaw's case, the tenure process began in June of 1980. After reviewing her teaching, service to the campus community and research, a review board of faculty of her board (Community Studies) and her college (Oakes College) recommended her promotion to tenure.

Off-campus colleagues also recommended promotion, but Sinsheimer ruled for denial.

The entire process took 22 months.

"I guess he just doesn't like my work," Shaw commented recently.

Her work has focused on field research in prisons and maternity wards to show how women are treated in those facilities.

"That kind of research is at the heart of sociology currently, but he (Sinsheimer) might not be aware of it," added Shaw.

The Chancellor has been quiet on the issue, but told protestors, "The award of tenure is not a political process...tenure is not determined by popular vote, by demonstrations or rallies, by banners or slogans."

A group called People United for a Responsible University, which has supported Shaw, says it will present grievances at a meeting of the campus Academic Senate on Wednesday at 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Concert Hall.