

Retiring chancellor takes parting shot at Santa Cruz

By KATHY SALAMON
STAFF WRITER

Retiring UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer delivered a parting shot to Santa Cruz yesterday.

In one of his last actions before leaving office, Sinsheimer approved the university's Long Range Development Plan — after eliminating language regarding controlled university growth.

The language, formally approved by the LRDP committee, was intended to control adverse impacts on the community by university growth.

For example, if certain levels of enrollment were reached and the university had not yet expanded housing, streets and sewer lines to serve that additional population, growth would be halted.

City Councilwoman Mardi Wormhoudt and County Supervisor Gary Patton, representatives to the LRDP Committee, had jubilantly announced the inclusion of the language last week.

But hopes of community and university cooperation were dashed as a "profoundly disappointed" Wormhoudt read from Sinsheimer's letter during a City Council meeting yesterday.

"This is a devastating setback," Wormhoudt said.

She said she was disillusioned with the LRDP process. The committee, which had about 20 members appointed by the chancellor, discussed phased growth "for hours and hours."

"Finally," she said, "the LRDP Committee was persuaded that this was the way to proceed."

Wormhoudt said this apparently meant little to the chancellor.

New chancellor Robert Stevens is expected to arrive next week. Wormhoudt said, "We are changing Robert The First for Robert The Second. I only hope that Robert The Second is more enlightened because nobody else (besides the chancellor) seems to have any say."

Councilman John Laird said the chancellor's letter didn't do justice to the UCSC motto, "Let there be light."

"The tragic thing was that this was a chance to make peace," he said, referring to strained relations between the city and university.

Councilman Michael Rotkin, a UCSC professor, said Sinsheimer's letter was "disappointing but not surprising."

"The university is neither democratic nor local," he said. "This is the power structure at the university. Now we have to think of options to put pressure on this non-democratic organization. We may have to go to the UC Regents to get redress to our problems."

Councilwoman Katy Sears-Williams satirically recommended taking out advertisements in newspapers around the state saying, "Don't send your kids to UCSC. They'll have to sleep under the bridge."

Sinsheimer also struck from the LRDP document some of the environmental controls it would have placed on the physical growth of the university.

The draft LRDP included specific environmental protection measures. Sinsheimer struck the specific language from the document.

University sources couldn't be reached for comment on Sinsheimer's letter.