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UC Chancellor's bullet-proof glass generates anger

UCSC - Faculty and Staff

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The purchase of \$30,000 worth of bulletproof glass to shield the chancellor's office at UC-Santa Cruz has angered some who claim it's inappropriate in an era of tight budgets.

UCSC Chancellor Karl Pister ordered the inch-thick special glass installed outside his office last month. It is designed to keep protesting students from smashing through a waiting area into the office, officials said.

But critics claim it's overkill.

"It's a sad commentary," said senior Brant Smith, former student body president. "Thirty grand ... You could get a couple of extra courses taught for that."

Mike Rotkin, a Santa Cruz city councilman who also works at the university, said, "It just seems like a real misappropriation of funds given what's going on right now."

Last spring the university cut \$11 million from its budget because of a state shortfall. Dozens of classes were eliminated, research was curtailed and 12 staff members were laid off.

Last November, several hun-

dred students protested outside Pister's office against fee increases. When the students tried to enter Pister's office, police with Mace and batons battled them back. Twelve protesters were arrested.