

UCSC [redacted] SJMN OCT 26, 1995  
Faculty and Staff

# Pister jolts UC-Santa Cruz by announcing resignation

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In a surprise announcement Wednesday, University of California, Santa Cruz Chancellor Karl S. Pister said he will retire next year, effective June 30.

Pister, 70, made his announcement during a regular address before the UC-Santa Cruz Academic Senate, the faculty arm that helps govern the university.

"I don't think this was expected," said university spokeswoman Elizabeth Irwin. "People were very surprised to have this announcement at this time."

Pister, the sixth chancellor at UC-Santa Cruz, was appointed by the regents in August 1991 as interim chancellor of the 10,000-student university campus and given a regular appointment in March 1992.

A fervent advocate of diversity, Pister had joined other chancellors in criticizing the regents'

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— Chancellor Karl S. Pister

vote in July to scrap affirmative action policies in hiring and admissions at the nine UC campuses. He spoke at a student protest and vowed to continue outreach programs to promote diversity, including a visit to Watsonville High School on Monday, where

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## Pister to quit as chancellor at UC Santa Cruz in June

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many students are Hispanic.

Irwin said Pister's decision to retire next year was based on his desire to spend more time with his wife, Rita, and family.

"It's a matter of two very vigorous people who want to spend more years in private life after so many years in public service," Irwin said.

Pister was quoted as saying: "This has been a very difficult decision for both Rita and myself. Coming to Santa Cruz, we were totally unprepared for the warmth and graciousness extended to us by the campus and the community over these last four years. I look forward to another productive and rewarding year at UC-Santa Cruz. I intend to exercise my responsibility as chancellor with all the vigor and effectiveness I am able to muster."

UC President Richard Atkinson will begin a search to fill Pister's post, for which the annual salary rose this month from \$165,000 to \$173,000.

Pister, who lives on campus, could not be reached for comment. At the time of his appointment, he was 66 and said he would have to review his decision to stay on an annual basis, Irwin said.

Funding and recognition for UC-Santa Cruz have grown under Pister's stewardship. US News and World Report recently ranked the university campus 13th in schools with "an unusually strong commitment to undergraduate teaching."

The campus has also benefited from a record number of research contracts, grants and private donations, with three new endowed chairs and \$10 million in private gifts in the last year.