

Is UCSC's dream becoming a reality?

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SANTA CRUZ — The hard reality of economics is moving UCSC toward fulfilling the dream of its founding fathers.

A newly released summary of the campus' "20-year plan" is telling those on the lush Santa Cruz campus that it has to grow — in practical ways.

The UCSC of the future will offer a broader and beefed-up range of studies — "applied programs" that offer greater career opportunities.

The plan estimates that 50 percent of the 2,000 to 4,000 students expected in the next 10 years will sign up for "applied programs" which offer training for jobs in business, banking and computer firms.

The 20-year report insists, however, those students will not be attending a glorified trade school, but will get a broad liberal-arts education along with learning how to make a living.

In 1965, when the university opened its first classroom, founding Chancellor Dean McHenry envisioned the day when it would be a large university with 27,500 students in separate, but inter-mixing colleges, that would offer a wide range of disciplines. The "applied program" concept was a key element of McHenry's vision; in fact, the campus' Applied Sciences building originally was to house an engineering program that never materialized.

The logistics of the dream faded in the mid-1970s when state-government support slacked off and student enrollment dropped and held at about 7,000.

The 20-year plan sees 1,800 to 4,000 new students in the next 10 years and 5,000 to 8,000 new students by 2005.

Crown College Bursar Don Vandenberg says the upsurge in enrollment is being felt this year and causing "excitement on campus." He noted that Crown is getting 200 to 300 new student-housing units next year.

He said that the 20-year report is a good planning tool, showing that UCSC is going to grow and that new facilities are needed.

The university has a \$5-million housing program for next year and UCSC is working on plans to house on campus all the students who will be coming in the next two decades.

Also, the campus is getting a \$30-million science building as a central facility.

The 20-year plan committee was composed of 20 to 30 academicians and administrators and was done in response to UC President David Gardner's demand to know what services UCSC would provide for the increased money it kept pleading for last year.

"I need to know where you are and where you intend (that money) to take you," Gardner said. "Absent that, I've got eight other campuses, most of which know exactly where they are going."

Gardner's demand for a practical expenditure of state money came after he met with Gov. George Deukmejian last year and assured the governor the money wouldn't be spent on macrame classes. Deukmejian, on Gardner's guarantee, bolstered state financial support for the UC system.

Since then the pressure has been on the campus at Santa Cruz to grow since it's one of only two or three UC campuses with land for expansion.

The plan tells Gardner that one of the difficulties in UCSC changing quickly is that it has too many professors in some disciplines and too few professors in others. It notes that many of those in place are tenured and will be around for a while, which in effect blocks hiring others.

One of the reasons UCSC needs more money from the state is that its design of separate and semi-independent colleges is more expensive than a centralized university design, according to the plan.

However, the plan states that if the eight colleges at UCSC can accommodate more students, they can operate economically.

It states that future design of the campus will continue to be the "cluster college" style that has been used.

To accommodate the growth, enrollment at each of the current eight colleges will increase, and two other colleges may be added.