

UCSC - Growth

Faculty still discussing the future of the UCSC campus

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SANTA CRUZ — A year after University of California President David Gardner responded to a plea for more financial support for UC Santa Cruz by challenging the faculty to tell him what they want the campus to be when it grows up, UCSC dons are still trying to figure out how to answer him.

Wednesday, Academic Senate Chairman Ron Ruby said pressure is increasing

on the faculty to devise a response to Gardner. The physics professor said the faculty must soon reach agreement on a long-term academic plan for the campus, or face the prospect of being shortchanged in future UC budgets.

Ruby said he was "tempted to use the term, 'at risk'" to characterize the Santa Cruz campus' position in the sprawling UC system's nine-way scramble for state funds. He said that if the faculty does not reach agreement soon, funding for capital projects could be delayed and some pro-

jects might fall by the wayside.

Gardner told the Senate last February that before he could support additional state funding for UCSC, "I need to know ... where you are and where you intend that (additional money) to take you.

"Absent that," the UC president said then, "I've got eight other campuses, most of which know exactly where they are going."

Wednesday, Ruby said that a committee, which has been working on a 20-year plan for the Santa Cruz campus, has at

least a glimmering of an idea as to where UCSC is headed.

Despite projected growth in graduate enrollment from a few hundred to 1,300 students by 2005, Ruby predicted, the opening years of the 21st Century will still find UCSC the "most liberal education-inclined" campus in the UC system.

He said the campus would, in fact, "be more of an undergraduate institution" than originally conceived in the plan drawn up for UCSC 20 years ago.

Ruby said that in 20 years, enrollment

at the Santa Cruz campus will reach 12,000-15,000 students, 85 percent of whom will be enrolled in undergraduate programs — mainly in what Ruby called "arts, letters and sciences." The Senate chairman said that growth would be relatively slow between now and 1994, rising from the campus' current enrollment of 7,000 students to about 9,000 in 10 years. After that, he said, UCSC must be prepared to grow faster.

Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer reported Wednesday that UCSC is already ex-

periencing growth of sorts in direct applications, which, he said, are up 30-35 percent over last year. The chancellor said that admissions for next fall have already been closed — marking the first time admissions have been closed so early since the "very early 1970s."

(Sinsheimer also said that UCSC will construct more student housing, with units for an additional 200 students expected to be completed and ready for occupancy by fall 1986.)