

UC president says:

# UCSC won't bow to city

UCSC - Research Park

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Sentinel Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — The University of California will never surrender the final decision on UCSC's proposed research and development center to local government agencies, UC President David Gardner said today.

"UCSC is not in a position to give either the city or the county ultimate decision-making authority," Gardner told reporters at a press conference at University House this morning. "Only the Regents have that (authority) under the law."

See related stories Page A3

Gardner's comments came in response to a question as to whether "as a general principle" he felt it was appropriate for the university to subject its development plans to the same local controls to which similar, privately developed projects are subject.

The UC president's response echoed UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer's previous insistence that while the university would consult with local officials, it could not be constrained by local planning decisions.

Gardner said it has "been the policy of the University of California generally" to "seek the advice of (local) officials" when their interests are affected by university projects. "And they (local officials' views) are generally allowed for, to the maximum extent possible," he said.

But, Gardner said, the "authority to make a final decision rests with the Board of Regents," who, he said, exercise "the responsibility they have

under the constitution of the state."

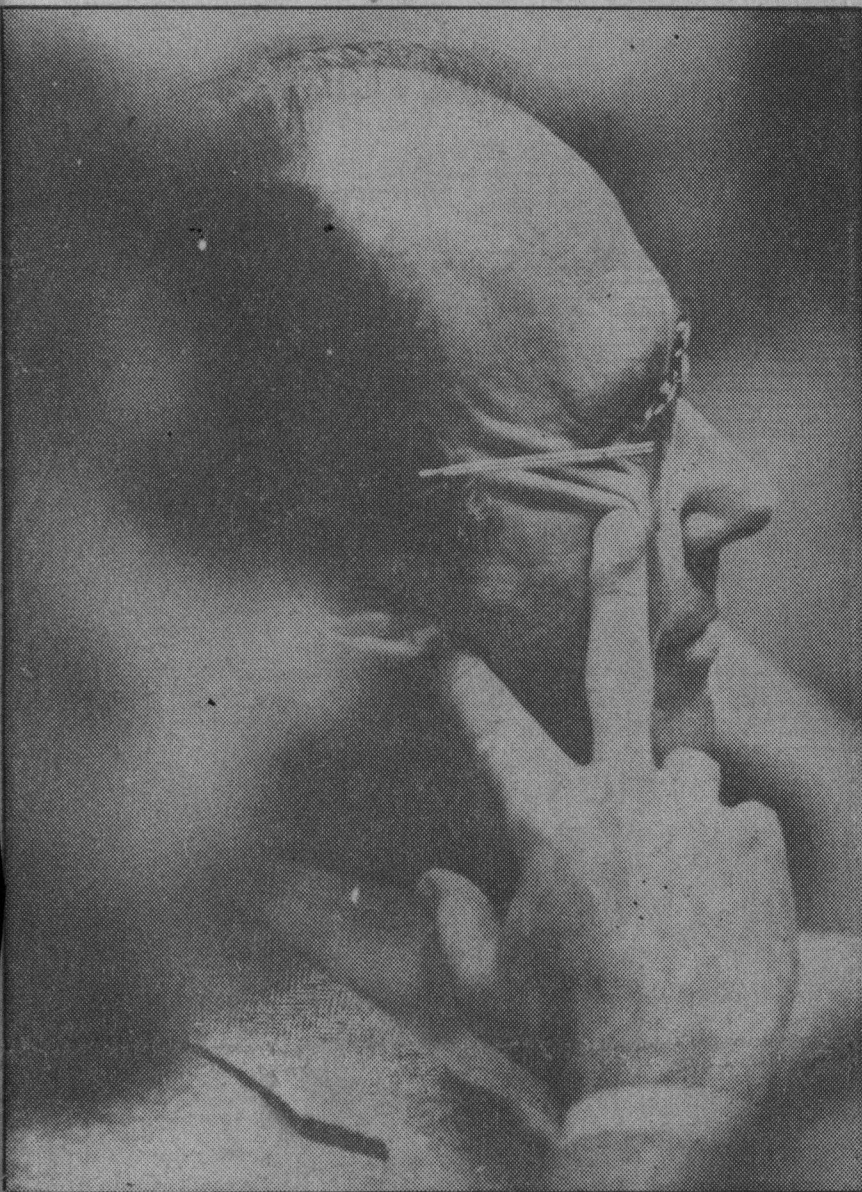
The UC president also said today that while it is ultimately his responsibility to decide what to recommend to the Regents, initial decisions on whether to develop university lands for R&D parks involving private industry have been left to individual campus chancellors.

And, Gardner insisted, there is currently "no proposal" for an R&D park at UCSC, because nothing has reached his desk yet.

"There is a planning process under way," he said. "A proposal will come into being when the chancellor has decided that the planning process has been completed ... and is settled in his mind as to what he wants to propose."

Gardner met with the press on the second day of a two-day visit to the UCSC campus. Wednesday, the UC president, who declined a city invitation to attend a public hearing on the controversial R&D park proposal, met with student representatives who presented him with a petition against the development. It was signed by more than 2,600 UCSC students and faculty members. Students and faculty expressed doubts about the development's financial prospects and educational benefits, raised concern about its ethical ramifications and urged Gardner to "explore alternatives with wider acceptance in the local community and on campus."

Sinsheimer's proposal to develop the 100-acre research and manufacturing center on the university campus received an overwhelming message from city voters last fall when by a three-to-one margin they approved a ballot measure calling on UCSC to submit its plans to the city for approval.



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

UC President David Gardner listens to faculty debate Wednesday.