

UCSC Votes To Increase Bus Service

Santa

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By an overwhelming 96 per cent majority, students at UCSC have voted to add \$3.50 on their quarterly registration fee to finance increased bus service by the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District.

Robert Scott, acting general manager for the transit district, termed the results as "wonderful news," and said the idea of having bus passes for residents on a community wide basis now is being considered.

More than 63 per cent of the 3,100-plus students cast ballots in the campuswide election. Of 1,905 voting, 1,833 said "yes" to the increased bus service proposition, according to Tom O'Leary, UCSC public information officer.

Those criteria meet the stipulations that more than half the campus must vote, and that two-thirds must vote approval before financial terms are accepted at UCSC.

Said an enthusiastic Scott, "I think this is indicative of what the transit district can do for the whole area. The thought of developing bus passes on a communitywide basis can be economically sound when enough persons are interested. If enough people want more service and ride the bus, we can give a very high level of service at an incredibly low cost."

He added that the 25-cent per ride levy now may be considered high, but that only one per cent of the area residents are riding the bus."

Scott added that a tentative agreement will be drawn up by the county counsel for approval of UCSC. It will call for the district to provide bus service to and from the campus every half hour on weekdays, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. In addition, hourly evening service will be available week nights from 7 p.m. to midnight, plus 5 p.m. to midnight Saturday, and 6 p.m. to midnight Sunday.

Scott estimated the district will receive an additional \$12,250 income every quarter because of the mandatory campuswide \$3.50 fee.

He said the run will go from the campus, down Bay Street, to Mission Street, to Chesnut Street, to Laurel Street, to Pacific Avenue to Soquel Avenue. Also, the regular "Beach Run" will be extended from the Casa del Rey to Seabright Avenue, where a large number of students live off campus.

"It looks like the young people are taking the lead in allowing us to provide better service," Scott said. "And the people who are also going to benefit are the elderly persons who want more bus service."

At their last board meeting, transit district board of directors said they were anxious to hear the results of the election, adding that they would like to expand the "bus pass" theory to areas where there are a great number of mobile homes.

Another measure passed at the UCSC campus was to continue a \$3.50 fee for support of the educational opportunity program and related community services such as tutorial programs and campus wide organizations and activities funded

through the Inter-College Board.

In other transit district business, Scott said it "looks favorable" that the district will receive a \$140,000 grant from the federal government.

If the grant is received, the district will ask the county (\$45,920), Santa Cruz (\$80,920) and Capitola (\$13,160) to loan funds until revenues start coming in from the district tax levy in December to match federal funds. (It was earlier incorrectly reported the district would ask the governmental bodies for a loan in the amount of their current subsidies).

However, Scott added that when a transportation plan for the district is completed, the U.S. Transportation Department will finance two-thirds of the funding for new buses and equipment, thereby lowering the loans asked from Santa Cruz (\$53,946), Capitola (\$8,773), and the county (\$30,613).

Based on bus mileage traveled within each jurisdiction, Santa Cruz has been footing 57.8 per cent of the district's subsidy, the county 32.8 per cent, and Capitola 9.4 per cent.

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