

Chancellor to join in high-tech forum

UCSC - Research Park

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SANTA CRUZ — UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer has had a change of heart and has agreed to join a public discussion panel on Measure A, the Nov. 8 referendum on UCSC's proposed high-tech complex.

The discussion will be at the Santa Cruz High School auditorium at 4 p.m.

Sinsheimer will be joined by environmental studies professor Paul Neibanck in opposition to the measure, and will face Measure A advocates Councilwoman Mardi Wormhoudt and county Supervisor Gary Patton.

The chancellor refused to debate

Patton earlier this month, saying such debate was premature since the high-tech park has not been designed to a stage where it can be debated.

Patton reacted to the chancellor's change of heart by saying, "I'm pleased. I think it will be a very worthwhile discussion."

Measure A is an attempt to force the university to send its plans through city planning.

In his debate challenge, Patton wrote, "It is wholly proper for the citizens of the City of Santa Cruz to request that any project you contemplate should conform to the planning policies which govern all other

developments."

The chancellor responded in his refusal to debate, "Measure A is a direct attack upon the constitutional autonomy of the university."

"Its language is deceptive and misleading. It does not deal with the serious, substantive issues the university and the community should be confronting."

"It merits a resounding electoral defeat."

The chancellor agreed to the panel discussion when requested by the Citizens for Measure A in a recent letter.

In his letter to Measure A advocates, Sinsheimer said the panel format should lead to "a discussion from different points of view, not an internal debate among the four participants."

The League of Women Voters has agreed to sponsor and moderate the discussion, which will be open to the public.

There will be eight-minute talks by each of the four participants and then written questions from the audience.

Sinsheimer said in his response to Patton that if there were to be a debate, it should be with Mayor Bruce

Van Allen on the supportive side of Measure A.

Denise Holbert, co-chairing the Measure A campaign, said Van Allen was not asked since he's running for re-election and the proponents didn't want to interject the city candidates issue into the panel.

Eight candidates are running for the council. Van Allen and Councilman Michael Rotkin, along with Jane Weed and Ed Porter support Measure A.

The moderate slate of Katy Sears-Williams, Bill Fieberling, Jim Felich and Arnold Levine oppose it.