

# ✓ **Banana Slugs' win** **UCSC opinion poll**

By HERON MARQUEZ ESTRADA

Sentinel Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — UC Santa Cruz students have decided overwhelmingly to name the Banana Slug the official school mascot, although the school administration is unlikely to implement the change.

The decision came in a non-binding opinion poll which the school conducted over 10 days in April at the eight campus colleges. The results showed that students want Banana Slugs to replace Sea Lions as the official mascot of the schools and its athletic teams. The final vote was 1,441 to 296 in favor of the slug.

Students have for years used the Banana Slug, a long yellow snail-like creature, as a de facto symbol of the school.

Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer's office had no comment on the poll and results.

The decision by the students was reached during the special public opinion poll of the 7,700 students. The matter had originally been scheduled for a vote during regular campus elections held last month but it was pulled off because Sinsheimer

felt it "inappropriate" to place it on the ballot.

The student vote on the Banana Slug is strictly advisory in nature and will carry no legal weight, which has most of the students on campus upset because they see it as the school administration disregarding the will of the majority.

Five years ago a similar vote was taken to decide on a nickname for the school athletic teams after five of them were elevated to Division III status by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Banana Slugs was one of six nicknames on a ballot and students selected that over Sea Lions.

Talks with the athletes, however, revealed that team members did not particularly relish the idea of being called the Banana Slugs.

Sinsheimer also did not like the idea, and he decided that the Banana Slug was "inappropriate" as a school mascot and instead had athletic teams use the name of Sea Lions.

Since then student charges against the chancellor on the matter have ranged from calling him dictatorial to accusing him of lacking a sense of humor.