Students vote to 'secede' at UCSC

By TOM LONG
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SANTA CRUZ — Students at UC Santa Cruz's Kresge College voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to secede from the university system.

Don't worry. No armed conflict is planned. Students don't plan on barricading the gates to the college - of course, there are no gates to Kresge College.

"This is a symbolic secession." said Steve Parks, who led the call

for this distinctly unrebellious rebellion. "Obviously we're not going to secede in the real, tangible world. But ideologically we feel separated already."

The secession was framed in a measure calling for "gentle development" of university land and expressing great displeasure with UCSC's current administration and undergraduate program.

"Students are being slighted by a de-sensitized central Adminis-

tration that is composed of managers and demagogues rather than the visionaries and idealists who once established this alternative institution," read the measure, which passed by a vote of 306 for and 79 opposed.

"I see this as a vote of no confidence." said Parks. "Students are tremendously dissatisfied and we see this as adding to the fire."

According to Brant Smith, another backer of the secession

measure, students are also worried that the school's narrative evaluation system may be replaced by letter grading and students may no longer be allowed to shop for classes at the beginning of each quarter.

According to UCSC spokesman John Harvith, no such changes are planned. Harvith also said the administration will take note of the vote, but...

"We're really not sure what

secession means," Harvith said.