

UCSC to 1990

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Differences On Campus At UCSC

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UCSC Chancellor Mark N. Christensen didn't resign his post in a head-on confrontation with faculty at the Santa Cruz campus Wednesday, but he nevertheless laid his job on the line.

He told the UCSC Faculty Senate, in effect, that if it doesn't support his proposals for reorganization of the campus, he will leave.

Before the meeting, rumors flew that the chancellor would be faced with a vote of no confidence on the spot, and a large crowd of students who got wind of the story waited outside the senate's meeting room, while inside the room was jammed with faculty for the first time in local senate history.

The vote of no confidence didn't take place.

Christensen himself mentioned a rumor in his speech that he was supposedly given the option of resigning, or facing the resignations of five college provosts, the men who head UCSC's colleges.

Christensen didn't resign. But he told the faculty that "I must have your support to carry on (through a campus

reorganization). I intend to use every means at my disposal to force discussion and conclusion on the issues.

"If you do not support me in that thrust, then you will have made some significant choices and provided guidance to yourselves and to the next administration of this campus," the chancellor said significantly.

But a check with provosts and faculty following the talk showed none who would say openly they had threatened to resign. "There's no truth to that rumor," one said.

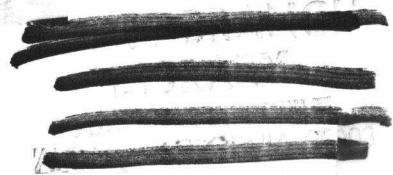
Several faculty members pointed out the dissatisfaction and unrest of campus go far beyond Christensen.

Instead, much of it is rooted in the new financial cutbacks affecting the entire university system, and the pinch already is being felt.

A faculty member at Stevenson College, for instance, was forced to use a pay telephone for a long-distance call on university business because of a shortage of inter-university phone lines and budget restrictions.

Faculty members also are being restricted on such minor things as use of copy machines,

(Continued on Page 3)



In Faculty Confrontation....

UCSC Chancellor Placed

and even the issue of parking tickets is an irritation. Faculty Senate President Sig Puknat remarked he had gotten one while chairing the last senate meeting. These minor irritations have been with UCSC almost since it opened, since former Chancellor Dean E. McHenry was determined to prove the unique Santa Cruz college system could be run cheaper, not more expensively, than any other campus in the UC system. "He watched every penny," said one faculty man.

But behind the minor irritations are more serious ones that the faculty sees. They told The Sentinel that there is a growing "bureaucratization," as College 5 Provost Paul Niebanck put it, with a feeling the central administration under Christensen is trying more and more to control their operations, and squeeze their programs financially.

Though the chancellor cited figures to show that the administration has grown less than other UCSC divisions, his details were not enough to convince many senate members, and he promised to supply more to a senate committee.

As Christensen implied, what is at stake is the question of

who is going to get the money in an era of tight budgets. Some science faculty need laboratory and research equipment, and aren't getting it. Some art labs don't have supplies and space they need. The pinch is being felt in several campus departments.

Another key area is the question of promotions and tenure among the faculty. Christensen and Vice Chancellor Eugene Cota-Robles were hit at the senate meeting with the charge they had violated university regulations in not referring back their decisions on promotion and tenure to the right committees. While not directly admitting the charge, neither had an answer, and Christensen apologized for "mistakes we may have made" in that area.

The feeling among some faculty is that they aren't consulted, or kept informed, on important changes. One source said that Bob Adams, acting dean of the Division of Social Sciences and Humanities, was told only one day before Christensen's speech that the chancellor intended to wipe out the division and put it in the hands of the colleges.

In a university campus, the appointment of top personnel is not only an administrative change, but has broad policy

and political implications.

The appointment of Roberto Rubalcava, former head of the Educational Opportunities Program for financial help and special admission for disadvantaged and minority students, to the post of director of enrollment caused much dismay among UCSC's old guard.

Rubalcava was a foe of former Chancellor McHenry, joining in a fight by Chicano groups charging UCSC with discrimination against minorities.

When Rubalcava reorganized the admissions office, and relieved long-time Admissions Officer Manfred Shaffer from his post, it was seen as a signal of deeper and not favorable changes in the administration.

Shaffer did not want to comment on his position, but other faculty such as David Huffman said Shaffer was, in effect, "fired," even though he remains in university employ.

Rubalcava told The Sentinel he had decided, in an era of steady enrollments, that "we don't need a full-time admissions officer, or even a half-time admissions officer. So I decided to develop an office that could respond quickly to student inquiries to encourage admissions, and upgraded Deborah Wubben (former associate admission officer under

Shaffer) to the post of office manager.

"I offered Shaffer a job description with three basic duties: as a staff officer II, as a half-time representative to the feeder high schools and junior colleges, to compile statistical data on enrollments, and to prepare materials for information and recruitment of new students." He said Shaffer hasn't decided to accept the new post.

The recruitment of students is critical at UCSC, since the money the campus gets to operate, and the number of instructors allowed is based on the number of students coming to UCSC.

Other points of dissatisfaction among the faculty include the slowness with which some jobs are filled and the lack of direction or lack of communication on the part of the chancellor and his staff on their problems.

Christensen pointed out Friday, however, that he warned the faculty with a "soft sell" approach a year ago that he wanted some concrete proposals on campus reorganization, especially along the lines of developing more college programs instead of following division lines such as sciences, social science, graduate

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03