

# UC president says R&D park up to regents

By BUD O'BRIEN

The final decision on developments on University of California campuses rests with the university regents, UC President David Gardner told a press conference this morning during his first visit to the Santa Cruz campus.

That was the essence of his reply to questions about the controversial plan of UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer to develop a research and development center on 108 acres of the local campus, and Sinsheimer's position that the university is exempt by state law from local planning regulations.

Sinsheimer and officials of the city of Santa Cruz have been locked in a sometimes ugly dispute on the subject. Sinsheimer's position has been that the university is exempted by state law from local land-use regulations.

Gardner supported that stand this morning when he said that neither he nor Chancellor Sinsheimer is in a position to give "the city or county authority over the ultimate decision" on the use of university land.

"That's up to the regents," Gardner said.

The city had submitted the matter to the voters last November, and they, by a 72 percent majority, urged that the university's plans be subjected to local planning authority. But Gardner made it clear that in his view that vote does not affect the regents' constitutional authority.

However, the president, making his first visit to the Santa Cruz campus since he was appointed to the job last year, emphasized that the university had always worked closely with local authorities in the development of its various campuses, and would continue to do so. He pointed out that Sinsheimer had expressed his willingness to cooperate to the extent possible with local officials in planning the R&D center.

Gardner also stressed that no actual proposal for an R&D center had yet been made. He said it was nothing more than a concept in the planning stage and that no concrete proposal had yet reached his desk. When — and if — it does, he said he would then decide whether to submit it to the regents, who will make the ultimate decision.

He said he was hopeful that before that stage was reached, the university and local offi-



David Gardner

cials, working together, could resolve the concerns that have led to the current dispute.

"The interests of the community obviously must be taken into account," Gardner said.

In other matters, Gardner said that while the university's fiscal condition is still "decidedly unhealthy," the 1984-85 fiscal year budget proposed by Gov. George Deukmejian is an encouraging sign that better days are ahead. Gardner said the university's slide from the pinnacle of the nation's educational system began a decade and a half ago and has resulted in some trying times, but that he was optimistic about the future.

He said there were definitely no plans to close the Santa Cruz campus, an alternative that was widely rumored if not actually considered by the powers that be in the past several years. In fact, Gardner said he foresaw that the major problem at UCSC before long would be its inability to accommodate all those who want to enroll there.

Gardner said he had not yet arrived at a position in his own mind on the controversial question of whether the university should be involved in weapons research. He did note that the University of California had signed contracts to operate the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in Livermore and the Los Alamos facility in New Mexico — in which roughly 40 percent of the research carried out is weapons-related — and "we intend to honor that commitment."