

# No Tenure For UCSC Professor

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Nancy Shaw, a UCSC community studies professor whose status at the university has been in question for two years, has been denied tenure by Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer.

The chancellor's decision, which in effect means Professor Shaw has been fired, was handed down Wednesday afternoon.

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Nancy Shaw

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The decision comes after a two-year tenure battle in which the future of Professor Shaw's career has been hanging in the balance.

During that time her supporters have tried to change the chancellor's mind by staging candlelight processions, demonstrations and circulating petitions in her behalf.

Shaw's supporters have maintained the case of Professor Shaw "exemplifies the systematic firing of 'activist professors' on many campuses across the country."

Shaw, who was first hired in 1973 to teach at the minority-studies oriented Oakes College, said following the decision that she was "disappointed and somewhat surprised." She plans to fight the decision.

According to Shaw, the University's privilege and tenure committee has told her there were "irregularities" in the way the decision was handled by the chancellor.

This committee said her formal hearings would be held if the final decision from the chancellor were to deny tenure. If these formal hearings are held, said

Shaw, it will be the first time in the history of the campus.

Shaw has already hired a San Francisco lawyer, Doris Walker, the same attorney who defended Angela Davis.

Chancellor Sinsheimer was out of town this week and his decision was communicated to Shaw by means of a short letter in which he stated the decision was made "with regret after long and careful consideration."

The chancellor's decision means that Professor Shaw will have one more year to teach at UCSC before finding a job elsewhere. She said today she has already been offered one.

Shaw's work first began being reviewed through the university's cumbersome tenure process more than 22 months ago. Her teaching and published research received the approval of the Community Studies Board at Oakes College, the Oakes College faculty and by many respected professionals in her field nationwide.

However, the Chancellor appraised her work as "good, particularly in those courses which relate to her special interests... (but) it is difficult to see why

this work could not have been done by any skilled investigative journalist."

In January, the Chancellor told her he was giving her a "tentative negative" denial of tenure, which turned "positively negative" this week.

Her research has consisted of two published books: "A West Santa Cruz Health Study" completed last year and "Forced Labor: Maternity Care in the United States." She has completed extensive research on how women are treated in prison.

Mayor Michael Rotkin called the chancellor's decision "outrageous."

"I simply can't understand how he made that decision. If it prevails, it will be a disaster," said Rotkin, who is also on the staff at UCSC. Councilmember John Laird also expressed sorrow over the decision.

Ron Saufley, assistant provost at Oakes College, commented, "While I am extremely disappointed, I am not shocked. It was predictable."

Oakes College has had a history of dismissed faculty due to personnel decisions, Saufley noted. In the past year alone there have been three firings there.