

Chancellor still seeking research park talks with city

By JOAN RAYMOND
Sentinel Staff Writer

6-13-84

SANTA CRUZ — UC Santa Cruz Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer continues to push for informal meetings with representatives from the city over his controversial plans to develop an on-campus electronics park.

In a recent letter to Mayor John Laird, Sinsheimer says the liberal City Council majority is being uncompromising in its stance over the electronics park plan.

"For the City Council majority to maintain an intransigent attitude serves no useful purpose," says Sinsheimer.

Following the dictates of an initiative

passed in November (Measure A), the City Council has tried to pressure the university to give the city final say over development plans for the electronics park.

University officials have repeatedly refused to turn such authority over the city, and the controversy has triggered a war of words between City Hall and top university offices.

In the latest addition to the literary ping pong match, Sinsheimer states to Laird, "The continuing attempt by the City Council majority to depict the university as similar to any other 'developer' is at best misguided. The university is an agency of

the state of California as specified in the constitution of the state.

"The officials of the university are public servants just as are the officials of the city of Santa Cruz.

"As public servants, albeit with different constituencies, it seems to me that our mutual obligation is to seek, if at all possible, to resolve our differences in an effective and economical manner."

Council members have maintained "informal" meetings requested by Sinsheimer are attempts at secret negotiations.

Sinsheimer's letter was in response to a missive from the council to the chancellor in May that stated city policies for open

meetings "cannot be scrapped because a particular developer — even one as dear to my heart as the university — finds them inconvenient."

The council minority — Arnold Levine, Katy Sears-Williams and Spiro Mellis — has continued to urge the majority to keep doors of communication open between the city and the university, and have said the latest letter from the council was antagonistic.

Sinsheimer said university and city officials could meet to decide whether "mutually acceptable land-use policies can be devised" over the proposed electronics park. "I have never assumed that such discussions could in themselves lead to

revision of the General Plan. Obviously, whatever proposals emerged from such discussions would require public presentation and eventual approval by the City Council."

City Councilman Michael Rotkin today commented that the chancellor's latest letter "doesn't offer anything different from the last letter."

Rotkin says he's waiting for the faculty "to kill this idea of the research park."

He said some kind of future confrontation between the Academic Senate and the chancellor over the proposed development is "a possibility," but he added Senate members are traditionally "not interested in going after the chancellor."