

November 4, 2004

Alison Galloway
Chair, Academic Senate
Santa Cruz Division

RE: LRDP Feedback

Dear Alison:

We discussed the LRDP at our meeting of October 29. Our attention focused on student housing, which is an important concern for attracting and retaining students and for financial aid. We discussed cost and occupancy-related issues, which we had also touched upon with the Director of Financial Aid at our previous meeting. We realize that, technically, these topics have more to do with implementation than with the land-use-development plan, but in light of the LRDP goal of housing 50% of 21,000 students on campus in 2020 we think that they need serious thought now.

The cost of undergraduate on-campus housing and food is almost \$11,000 for 2004-05. (This year on-campus students living in apartments were obliged to sign up for the meal plan.) It costs approximately \$2,000 more to live on campus than off, and currently there are 300-400 on-campus places not filled. A strict interpretation of the provision that housing is supposed to pay for itself exacerbates the problem, which could spiral out of control as UCSC builds more student housing: high prices drive students to cheaper alternatives, and lower occupancy pushes the on-campus costs per student up.

CAFA is not the body to confront the details of this issue. Nonetheless, some interesting ideas were put forward at our meeting that we would like to pass on:

- * Change the business model by making fund raising for on-campus housing a priority;
- * Fill vacancies by offering reduced on-campus housing as part of students' financial aid;
- * Increase summer occupancy so as to reduce academic year rents;
- * Offer more housing flexibility across the colleges to make it easier for groups of students to live together and for students to opt out of some or all of the food plan;
- * Require students to live on campus their freshman and sophomore years, if we must house 50% of students and nothing else can solve massive vacancy problems.

At the same time we applaud the intent of the draft LRDP to maintain the distinctive environment of our campus while responding to the mandate to accommodate more students. This is a high priority. The natural beauty surrounding our colleges, classrooms and offices is an inspiration, and will surely continue to play an important part in attracting students, faculty and staff to UCSC.

Sincerely,

Rob Coe, Chair
Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid

cc: CAAD Chair Triloki Pandey
CEP Chair Richard Hughey
CFW Chair Roger Anderson
COR Chair Judith Aissen
CPB Chair Paul Koch
COT Chair Charlie McDowell
GC Chair Bruce Schumm