Dear Members of the Santa Cruz Faculty Association,

With apologies for the late notice, we are writing to inform you of an important agenda item at today’s Academic Senate meeting, at 2:30 PM, at Kresge Town Hall. We invite you to attend and take part in this conversation, according to your instincts.

As many of you know, Kresge is in the final year of its preparations for a major rebuild. Among its planned upgrades will be a large-scale lecture hall, but considerable controversy has accompanied the question of its size. In an extensive and detailed analysis from CEP, it has been determined that the hall should be no larger than 520 seats, in order to serve enrollment and space-assignment needs optimally. A larger hall, the report demonstrates, would be ineffective, because it would compromise space needed for smaller classes, and particularly for the smaller sections that any large-scale course in the new hall would need. CEP’s report is on the web and also attached to this message.

Despite this report, and without explicit response to it, UCSC administration has set the size of the new hall at 600 seats.

If Kresge is built according to the administration’s current plan, we expect that pressure to teach very large lecture courses will increase, and simultaneously, we’ll experience more difficulty with effective scheduling for smaller courses and sections.

Again, we understand that we are offering a late reminder of this agenda item. If you cannot attend please consider sending a comment or question with a colleague who will, and feel free to forward this message.

Ben Leeds Carson
Co-chair, Santa Cruz Faculty Association
Chris Connery
Co-chair, Santa Cruz Faculty Association
Megan Thomas
Member, Santa Cruz Faculty Association Board