

## 2026.05.22 Statement to Academic Senate

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### Flock Security Cameras on Campus

Over the past several weeks, we have heard from many students, faculty and staff regarding privacy concerns related to the Flock automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras installed at campus entrances. We appreciate the candid and thoughtful conversations about this technology.

Campus safety remains a top priority for the administration, and we have already seen benefits from these cameras, including their role in helping apprehend hit-and-run drivers and other individuals engaged in criminal activity. At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that our community has concerns about ALPR privacy protocols.

While Flock has recently implemented improvements to its data security controls, and these are complemented by Cal State and Cal Poly safeguards, we recognize the need to continually assess whether we are achieving the right balance between safety and privacy.

As President, my responsibility is to balance the needs and priorities of our community and to continually seek better ways to operate. In that spirit, we have identified vendors that offer similar solar-powered license plate readers, potentially at a lower cost while meeting the safety and privacy needs of the Cal Poly community.

Following recent discussions, I have committed to the following actions:

- We will reevaluate our relationship with Flock and assess alternate vendors.
- Before making any changes or considering a new vendor, we will consult with Academic Senate and ASI leadership.
- We will review both short- and long-term policies related to data access and storage associated with license plate reader systems.

I am committed to maintaining transparency throughout this process as we establish a timeline for completing this evaluation. Public Safety is working with student advocates to ensure better transparency regarding the Cal Poly Police Department's use of Flock while it is in place. Dialogue is ongoing to discuss what that might entail.

Above all, our goal is to foster a safe campus environment — one that not only reduces the risk of criminal activity but also ensures that students, staff, faculty and visitors feel confident that their privacy is respected.