FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
GSA Presidential Statement on Policy 133

May 29th, 2019 --- Policy 133 is an Orwellian nightmare that is all about control and invasion of privacy and not at all about safety.

Despite ornamented language in the revised policy that feigns otherwise, the policy would essentially grant UCPD live access to thousands of security cameras all over campus.

UCLA is a public school, not a prison or a police state. If UCLA administrators were at all serious about civil liberties like the right to privacy, freedom of expression, or the right to assembly, they would not be pursuing this mass surveillance program.

The way that administrators have handled widespread criticism of the policy further proves that the policy has everything to do with authoritarian control of a public campus and nothing to do with safety or legitimate law enforcement activities.

The policy has received intense push back from students, who see through this administration’s attempts to sugar coat a radical surveillance initiative.

Vice Chancellor Michael Beck has stated that the administration plans on being “more aggressive” in hearing student voices on matter,¹ yet he has planned an open comment period that consists of Week 10, the week of finals, and the week after finals. There is not a worse time to schedule an open comment period if student voices are truly to be valued. If VC Beck was serious and the administration cared about student voices, they would push this open comment process into the new school year.

At the very least, the timeline on this program should be pushed back to allow for adequate student and community feedback sometime in the fall. Proceeding with an open comment period at this uniquely inconvenient time for students is an insult to the idea that the administration takes student voices seriously.

Sincerely,
Zak Fisher

¹https://dailybruin.com/2019/03/10/ucla-administration-ucpd-discuss-security-cameras-policy-with-students/