



# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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Steven W. Cheung  
Chair, Assembly of the  
Academic Senate  
Faculty Representative,  
UC Board of Regents

Academic Senate

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CAMPUSES

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San Diego  
San Francisco  
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Lawrence Berkeley  
Lawrence Livermore  
Los Alamos

June 18, 2025

Michael V. Drake, M.D.  
President, University of California

Re: Assembly Resolution on Use of Trellix and Similar Monitoring Software

Dear President Drake,

At its June 12, 2025 meeting, the Assembly of the Academic Senate approved the attached resolution concerning the implementation of Trellix and similar monitoring software. The Assembly vote was 27 in favor and 6 opposed, with 14 abstentions.

The resolution conveys strong concerns about the deployment of Trellix software on faculty computers and devices, citing its extensive surveillance capabilities, ability to upload or alter files without user consent, and the risk of government access to academic data—particularly in light of Trellix's participation in the [Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative](#). It also notes security vulnerabilities associated with Trellix's predecessor and outlines the broader risks to academic freedom, privacy, and research integrity.

Accordingly, the Assembly requests the immediate suspension of Trellix and any similarly invasive monitoring software on UC faculty and researcher computer systems. It also calls for a transparent and inclusive evaluation process with faculty representation for any future consideration of such software.

We look forward to continued constructive dialogue and joint planning on how best to balance cybersecurity in an increasingly hostile environment, with the University's commitment to academic freedom, privacy, and research.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Cheung  
Chair, Academic Council

cc: Assembly of the Academic Senate

Provost and Executive Vice President Newman  
Chief Operating Officer Nava  
Chief Information Officer Williams  
Senate Division Executive Directors  
Senate Executive Director Lin



**Resolution on Use of Trellix and Similar Monitoring Software**

**Approved by the Assembly of the Academic Senate**

**June 12, 2025**

WHEREAS, academic freedom, privacy, and autonomy are foundational principles upon which the integrity and excellence of scholarship, research, and teaching at the University of California depend;

WHEREAS, the deployment of Trellix monitoring software permits extensive surveillance capabilities, including scanning all accessed and executed files, logging detailed metadata (such as filenames, paths, alleged threat names, and hashes), quarantining files, and potentially uploading files deemed suspicious, thus severely compromising faculty privacy and autonomy;

WHEREAS, Trellix's predecessor, FireEye, was hacked in 2020 in the SolarWinds cyberattack, which was determined by intelligence agencies to be carried out by Russian state-sponsored hackers and exposed over 250 federal agencies, including the Departments of State, Treasury, Commerce, Energy, and Homeland Security, as well as the National Institutes of Health;

WHEREAS, the data collected from faculty computers through Trellix software could become accessible to government agencies without a warrant, due to Trellix's membership in the Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative—a joint task force comprising private companies and the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency—that explicitly engages in “rapid bilateral and multilateral threat information sharing;”

WHEREAS, the unchecked capacity of such software to monitor, upload, and alter files without explicit consent poses a significant threat to intellectual freedom, confidentiality of sensitive research data, and the ethical standards expected within our scholarly community;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the Academic Senate of the University of California, demands the immediate suspension of the implementation and use of Trellix or any similarly invasive monitoring software on faculty and researcher computer systems;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any future monitoring software considered for deployment must undergo a transparent and inclusive evaluation process involving faculty representation to ensure the safeguarding of privacy, academic freedom, and research integrity.