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Michael V. Drake, MD  
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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES

March 7, 2025

ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR CHEUNG

Dear Steven:

Thank you for the Academic Senate's letter which raised important concerns regarding the University of California's information security investment plan. Since we received your letter last June, the UC cyber leadership team has met twice with the University Committee on Academic Computing and Communications (UCACC), several times with the UCACC chairs, and with Academic Senate chairs and vice chairs as well as local campus cyber leadership to better understand the issues that were raised and to ensure we have taken measured actions and have an appropriate path forward.

This approach to address critical existing areas of shared cybersecurity risk was developed in partnership with the Chancellors to support addressing location-specific risk. We acknowledge the importance of robust cybersecurity measures while maintaining a balance with the critical research and educational activities that are fundamental to our mission.

I want to assure you that we are committed to a collaborative approach to cybersecurity that respects and incorporates the valuable expertise of our faculty and research IT personnel. To this end:

1. The UC Cyber leadership team is committed to full and meaningful consultation with the UC Academic Senate on all significant cybersecurity measures and policy discussions. This will include providing opportunities for meaningful feedback and ensuring that faculty perspectives are considered in decision-making processes.
2. The UC Cyber leadership team has already engaged in collaborative work with campus subject matter experts (SMEs) to clarify standards. We plan to continue close consultation with the Academic Senate in the new academic year to finalize these standards and ensure they are appropriate for our diverse academic environment.
3. We are dedicated to working with campus IT officers and the Academic Senate to support minimizing impacts to email and collaboration tools. We understand the importance of these tools for faculty productivity and will strive to support and implement these critical security measures in ways that are minimally disruptive.
4. The UC IT team is committed to working closely with UC Procurement to identify cost reduction opportunities and will advise location IT teams on cost avoidance strategies. We recognize the financial implications of cybersecurity measures and will explore all avenues to mitigate their impact on campus budgets.

5. For the purposes of the letter, the University of California recognizes Unit Head as a dean, vice chancellor or person in a similarly senior role who has the authority to allocate budget and is responsible for Unit performance.

We appreciate your willingness to work with us on this critical issue. We are confident that through open communication and collaboration, we can continue to develop and implement cybersecurity measures that protect the University while supporting the vital work of our faculty and researchers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael V. Drake" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael V. Drake, MD  
President

cc: Academic Council  
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Nava  
Vice President and Chief of Staff Kao  
Vice President & Chief Information Officer Williams  
Chief Risk Officer Confetti  
Interim Chief Information Security Officer Ratzlaff  
Chief Policy Advisor McAuliffe  
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