



Subject: Resolution Opposing the Implementation of AI-powered Surveillance Cameras at the University at Buffalo

Proposed by: Sarah MacDougall, President; Sherika Caliste, Vice President; Dan Kulesza, Treasurer

WHEREAS the University at Buffalo Graduate Student Association (“GSA”) surveyed graduate students regarding the potential implementation of Flock cameras or similar technology on campus, and of the 122 students who responded, only two expressed support for such implementation; and

WHEREAS surveyed graduate students expressed significant concerns regarding the use of Flock cameras or similar technology, including concerns related to the safety and privacy of international students, potential misuse, and infringement of civil liberties; and

WHEREAS many graduate students work with vulnerable populations and have raised additional concerns regarding potential implications of such surveillance technology infringing on information protected by laws and regulations, including FERPA and HIPAA; and

WHEREAS GSA recognizes privacy, freedom of movement, and the protection of personal information are important interests for members of the University campus community, as well as external visitors; and

WHEREAS consideration of the implementation of such technology has not included sufficient consultation with affected University stakeholders consistent with the principles of shared governance espoused by the University, as further evidenced by a petition signed by over 700 students, faculty, staff, and alumni; and

WHEREAS significant questions regarding data protection, costs, effectiveness, and privacy implications have not yet been satisfactorily discussed with the University community, nor has sufficient evidence been provided showing that this would meaningfully increase safety; and

WHEREAS trust is still being repaired between University community members, the University at Buffalo Police Department (“UBPD”), and external law enforcement agencies after the quelling of student protests in 2024; and

WHEREAS the current political climate, including concerns regarding the treatment and safety of international students, further underscores the need for transparency,

consultation, and careful consideration before implementation of such technology capable of collecting, retaining, or sharing information concerning individuals' movements on campus;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Graduate Student Association is staunchly opposed to the consideration or implementation of Flock cameras, or similar technology, on campus until all stakeholders have been consulted in an open transparent manner, which publicly addresses the technology's anticipated benefits, effectiveness, costs, data practices, privacy implications, civil-liberties implications, and safeguards against misuse; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, GSA requests that proactive community safety measures, such as more and better lighting and broader, accurate advertising of the UB Guardian app (which is not actually called the UB Guardian app), be considered before reactive measures such as Flock cameras or similar.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to University administration and other relevant stakeholders.
