

ALAN G. HEVESI
COMPTROLLER



110 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12236

STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER

June 10, 2005

Dr. Matthew Goldstein
Chancellor
City University of New York
535 East 80th Street
New York, New York 10021

Re: Report 2005-F-1

Dear Chancellor Goldstein:

Pursuant to the State Comptroller's authority as set forth in Article V, Section 1 of the State Constitution; and Article II, Section 8 of the State Finance Law, we have followed up on the actions taken by officials of the City University of New York (CUNY), to implement the recommendations contained in our confidential draft audit report, General Controls at the Data Center and Selected Colleges (Report 2003-S-10).

Background, Scope and Objective

The City University of New York (CUNY) is the largest urban university, and the third largest public university system in the nation. It consists of 11 senior colleges, six community colleges, a graduate center, a law school, and a school of biomedical education. Governed by a 17-member Board of Trustees, CUNY employs about 6,000 full-time faculty members, and has approximately 218,000 students enrolled in degree programs.

Our initial audit report, which was issued on January 13, 2004, examined the manner in which CUNY Computer and Information Services protects its computer systems, as well as the colleges' data, and ensures the continuous processing of critical data after a disaster or other mishap. The objective of our follow-up, which was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, was to assess the extent of implementation, as of May 4, 2005, of the recommendations included in our confidential report. To further assure security of CUNY's data processing operations, the details of the recommendations and their implementation status are not included in this report. However, we discussed with CUNY officials the detailed results of our follow-up work during the conduct of our review.

Summary Conclusions

Overall, we found that CUNY officials have made strides towards implementing the recommendations contained in the confidential draft report, and are continuing in their efforts to ensure full implementation of all recommendations.

Major contributors to this report were Brian Reilly, Abe Fish, Keith Dickter and Michael D'Amico.

We would appreciate your response to this report within 30 days, indicating any actions planned to address unresolved issues. We also thank the management and staff of CUNY for the courtesies and cooperation extended to our auditors during this process.

Very truly yours,

Steven E. Sossei
Audit Director

cc: Robert Barnes, Division of the Budget