

Thomas P. DiNapoli  
COMPTROLLER



110 STATE STREET  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12236

STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER

March 3, 2011

Dr. Matthew Goldstein  
Chancellor  
City University of New York  
Office of the Chancellor  
535 East 80<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10075

Re: Report 2010-F-48

Dear Chancellor Goldstein:

According 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 to implement the recommendations contained in our audit report, *Physical Access and Wireless Controls at Colleges* (Report 2008-S-69).

**Background, Scope and Objectives**

The City University of New York (CUNY) is the nation's third largest public university system consisting of 11 senior colleges, 6 community colleges, and other specialty schools. CUNY serves more than 480,000 students. CUNY's operating budget for fiscal 2010-2011 was approximately \$2.5 billion.

The Office of Computing and Information Services (CIS) is CUNY's central technology provider. CIS supports enterprise applications on a continuous basis and provides Internet services for CUNY's colleges. Each CUNY College has an Information Technology department which is responsible for the college's network and maintaining the college's data center. Data centers contain expensive computer equipment and store e-mail, network login and financial data, and other sensitive and confidential information.

CIS staff are responsible for providing guidance and tools to the colleges to ensure that physical access to data centers and college use of wireless networks are appropriate, as well as ensuring that environmental conditions in the data centers are adequate. In recent years, CUNY has increased its commitment to information technology security. For example, recent CIS initiatives include developing a CUNY-wide IT Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plan; and leading the development of CUNYFirst to integrate CUNY systems into one unified enterprise system.

Our initial audit report, which was issued on July 16, 2009, examined CUNY's oversight of campus computer resources, and selected colleges' data center physical access and wireless controls. CUNY management did not provide adequate central oversight to protect computer resources at its colleges. Additionally deficiencies existed in physical access and wireless controls at three sampled colleges we visited. The objective of our follow up was to assess the extent of implementation as of February 8, 2011 of the seven recommendations included in our initial confidential report. Due to the sensitivity of the information and the potential risk associated with the release of such information, the details of the recommendations and their implementation status are not included in this report. However, we discussed the detailed results of our follow-up work with CUNY officials.

### **Summary Conclusions and Status of Audit Recommendations**

We found that CUNY management, both centrally and at the campuses, has made progress in correcting some of the problems we identified. However, additional improvements are needed. CUNY officials generally agreed with our conclusions and indicated that they will take additional actions to fully implement our recommendations.

Major contributors to this report were Abe Fish and Keith Dickter.

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

Yours truly,

Brian Reilly  
Audit Manager

cc: Mr. Gordon Taylor, CUNY Director of Internal Audit  
Mr. Thomas Lukacs, Division of the Budget