

1 for us to, frankly, eliminate an
2 operational function all together, to see
3 if we can't have Albany provide that.

4 SENATOR SAVINO: Right. And with
5 respect to the backing out your physical
6 and plant staff because of the demands
7 there and some of the requirements that you
8 talked about in the backing out nurses and
9 doctors and people who work in the hospital
10 system. As Senator Klein said, you focused
11 on the -- the clerk. Is there a -- are
12 there any opportunities for workers to
13 develop ultimate work schedules, including
14 things like flextime, which would allow you
15 to expand the workday, essentially --

16 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

17 SENATOR SAVINO: -- and then maybe
18 accommodate some of the student needs so
19 you don't necessarily get locked into that
20 9 to 5 --

21 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Right.

22 SENATOR SAVINO: -- and that would
23 also help to mitigate some of the
24 discretionary overtime.

1 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Right.

2 Actually, alternate work times that are
3 within a traditional, you know, 40 hour a
4 week period --

5 SENATOR SAVINO: Uh-huh.

6 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- are --
7 are fairly common, particularly in student
8 affairs, where there is an extended work
9 from a student -- a workweek from a student
10 perspective. And that might include even
11 Saturdays and -- and Sundays and certainly
12 evening hours.

13 The one thing, though, I -- I think
14 I want to be real clear on is the vast
15 majority of our overtime is in the area of
16 physical plant services and not physicians.
17 Physicians are -- are professional staff
18 that are really not subject to or -- or
19 have overtime available to them in that
20 traditional sense. But more nursing staff,
21 allied health professionals, maintenance
22 workers, that's really where the vast
23 majority of our overtime dollars are spent,
24 is -- is in those categories.

1 SENATOR SAVINO: And --

2 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: I'm not
3 going to say that's absolutely the case
4 with regard to every dollar, but the
5 majority of those dollars -- and we could
6 get that breakdown for you. I know we
7 provided it before, but we'd be more than
8 happy --

9 SENATOR SAVINO: Uh-huh.

10 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- to -- to
11 do that again.

12 SENATOR SAVINO: And, finally, on
13 the -- on the piece on the SUNY police,
14 because I noticed in your testimony you
15 said that SUNY -- the SUNY system is unique
16 and that it can't be compared to either the
17 State Police or the Environmental
18 Conversation Police or the Forest -- Forest
19 Rangers or Park Police. And I'm kind of
20 puzzled as to why. Because when you look
21 at the differences between the way SUNY's
22 police are managed and the way the State
23 Police is; for instance, the SUNY,
24 according to the State Comptroller, the

1 State University Policing model uses 65
2 management confidential positions at a cost
3 of 6.2 million. And then you compare that
4 to the combined 3 police agencies; Division
5 of State Police, Environmental Conservation
6 and Parks, they only utilize 24 management
7 confidential positions that cost 3.8
8 million. Collectively those agencies
9 supervise 45 hundred more police than the
10 SUNY police do.

11 So, I'm -- I'm puzzled as to why you
12 don't think that we could have a central
13 police operation at SUNY, adopting the same
14 model that the State Police use or the
15 Environment Conservation Police or Forest
16 Rangers.

17 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.
18 Well, respectfully, Senator, I didn't say
19 that we couldn't have it, I said we were
20 looking into it. Were looking to -- into
21 operational efficiencies across all of our
22 distinct operations and are very -- paying
23 very close attention to what the pros and
24 cons are and the real opportunities are

1 with centralization.

2 So, we're not ignoring it, we're not
3 dismissing it out of hand. It's something
4 that requires some careful -- careful
5 consideration.

6 But I will say I do believe we are
7 unique. In that, in -- and it's largely
8 due to our population, which -- which is,
9 in -- in our term, a vulnerable population.

10 We have lots and lots of
11 constituents that are -- are young folks
12 who are beginning to deal with independence
13 for the first time and the stresses of
14 pursuing a higher education in this
15 environment and it creates all kinds of
16 unique law enforcement issues that are,
17 frankly, somewhere between law enforcement
18 and social service support.

19 And that -- and it's not a model
20 across all institutions. Some of those
21 vulnerable populations, frankly, are
22 nontraditional students who are balancing
23 jobs and families and pursuing their
24 education. And that creates a whole

1 different kind of stress.

2 And this isn't just me saying this.
3 If you look at a lot of the reports that
4 were done following the Virginia Tech
5 tragedy, it was very clear that campus
6 policing is a different sort of animal than
7 policing in different environments.

8 I'm not saying that there aren't
9 lessons to be learned from different
10 environments, I totally embrace that. I'm
11 familiar with some of those environments.
12 I'm just saying that we have to be very
13 carefully. And that we are going to put
14 health, safety and welfare at the fore --
15 as I'm -- I'm sure you would totally
16 embrace as well.

17 SENATOR SAVINO: I -- I wouldn't
18 disagree with you on that. I just still --
19 I'm not convinced that we can't do that
20 with a single supervising police unit and
21 eliminating some of the redundancies in --
22 in having multiple units.

23 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh. And
24 I'm -- I'm open to that as well.

1 SENATOR SAVINO: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Senator Aubertine.

3 SENATOR AUBERTINE: Thank you, Mr.
4 Chairman.

5 And thank you for your testimony,
6 Madam Vice Chair -- Vice Chancellor.

7 You -- you touched on briefly the --
8 the concept of an enterprise concept early
9 on. Could you -- could you help me better
10 understand in a specific way how we could
11 perhaps save revenue in the SUNY system?

12 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Well, I
13 think it has to do with more effective risk
14 management to -- to look at a very close
15 assessment across the organization of the
16 kinds of risks. And I think in the -- in
17 the terminology, we're really looking at
18 insurable risks. And to look at best
19 practices from a -- from an organizational
20 perspective so that we're not either
21 reinventing the wheel, that we are sharing
22 those best practices and how to avoid or
23 reduce risks as a -- as opposed to sort of
24 doing it on a one off basis.

1 So, there's a -- there's a whole --
2 I mean, for -- for people who are into this
3 kind of thing; like, operational people,
4 there -- there's a whole bunch of
5 literature on enterprise risk management
6 that looks at the entire organization and
7 tries to align it around some basic
8 principles of -- of how you would deal
9 judge risk.

10 SENATOR AUBERTINE: In -- in -- my
11 assumption would be that the basic
12 principles would in all likelihood vary
13 from campus to campus?

14 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: The -- I
15 think the principles actually are
16 consistent from campus to campus. The
17 circumstances may vary. The -- the measure
18 of risk may vary, but the process for
19 managing that risk, actually, there's some
20 opportunity for some great economies of
21 scale.

22 And the assessment process, you
23 know, it's a -- it's a matrix kind of
24 approach. It sort of combines insurance

1 experience with auditing experience. It
2 looks at risk not just from the -- the
3 traditional sort of vehicle risk or a
4 facility kind of risk, but actually looks
5 at things like financial risk; you know,
6 those kinds of things, and tries to
7 generate some really good generalizable, if
8 you will, best practices.

9 SENATOR AUBERTINE: In -- at least
10 in theory, implementing some of those best
11 practices certainly has the potential for
12 savings overall in the SUNY system?

13 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: I think so.
14 That's been my experience in other
15 environments. But I'm pretty new to New
16 York, so --

17 SENATOR AUBERTINE: Okay.

18 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- I have to
19 keep an open mind.

20 SENATOR AUBERTINE: The -- the other
21 question that I have is, specifically, to
22 the extent you can, are there areas in --
23 in the SUNY system, that if SUNY were given
24 the latitude to raise dollars or save

1 dollars through consolidation or -- or
2 public -- public, private collaboration, do
3 you -- do you see opportunities that may
4 exist there?

5 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Having come
6 from an institution, all be it not a system
7 where we have this flexibility, I pretty
8 much see opportunity around every corner.

9 I think that through public, private
10 partnerships we can run virtually every
11 organization, the most traditional being
12 our -- our axillary functions; that is
13 residence halls and -- and rec. centers and
14 food service, in a -- in a far more
15 efficient manner by partnering with
16 organizations who do this for a living.

17 That's not to say that we are
18 interested in avoiding things like
19 collective bargaining and prevailing wage
20 and all of that. But really by partnering
21 with folks who do this for a living we can
22 enhance the efficiency with which we
23 deliver these services.

24 I also think that public, private

1 partnerships, land lease, these kinds of
2 joint ventures, allow us to leverage land
3 that is within a particular campus control
4 to generate new revenues. And then,
5 frankly, to use those land leases to build
6 operations that we might not otherwise be
7 able to afford, that would in turn employ
8 new -- create new jobs and create sort of a
9 net increase in -- in employability in the
10 areas around the campus.

11 So, I -- I really think that there's
12 opportunity around every corner if we had
13 some more flexibility about how we manage
14 our assets.

15 SENATOR AUBERTINE: Is -- is there,
16 to -- to the best of your knowledge, any --
17 any specific activities, studies going on
18 at this point in time that would help --
19 help this committee at this point in time
20 over the next, you know, short while to
21 save dollars in -- in this year's budget
22 and going forward?

23 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Well, I -- I
24 might -- I think I'm a little bit unclear.

1 I -- I mean, I -- I have a -- a list that
2 we would be happy to get to the committee
3 of opportunities, if you will, that are in
4 the cue; that are -- are waiting for a
5 greater flexibility and -- and more control
6 over our assets.

7 And, actually, I have it right here
8 (indicating). And -- and we can -- we can
9 get you that list.

10 In terms of operational
11 efficiencies, as I noted, the -- the
12 Chancellor has directed me to really start
13 looking at virtually every one of our
14 operations; both at SUNY Central and at --
15 across our campuses.

16 I have to say that those
17 opportunities also represent impact on
18 personnel. I'm a bit loathed to get into
19 the specifics at this point without having
20 a -- a better sense of what those impacts
21 will be because there are human beings
22 associated with those positions. And until
23 we're ready to really implement, I would
24 hate to create panic among good -- good

1 folks who are well meaning and who are hard
2 working.

3 So, I -- I think there is an
4 opportunity through shared services,
5 through elimination of services for us
6 to -- to -- to enhance our operational
7 efficiency. There's no doubt about that.

8 SENATOR AUBERTINE: Well, to the --
9 to the extent that -- that you can, that
10 SUNY can, sharing that information with
11 this committee and -- and I think keeping
12 this committee apprised of activities that
13 are taking place, that would be helpful;
14 that certainly would be helpful.

15 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Sure. I'd
16 be pleased to do that.

17 And generally speaking, so you know
18 the categories in terms of those
19 efficiencies we'd be looking at, parking
20 services, the delivery of -- of security
21 services, some of our other financial
22 operations, whether or not we can sort of
23 assign those to a particular campus to --
24 to perform for all of our campuses. Those

1 are the categories that we're trying to --
2 looking at with a pretty close eye.

3 SENATOR AUBERTINE: Okay. Well,
4 thank you for your testimony.

5 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Sure.

6 SENATOR AUBERTINE: Thank you, Mr.
7 Chairman.

8 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Thank you.

9 Anyone else have any questions on
10 the overtime? No?

11 I -- I just want to follow up on
12 just a couple more questions on the
13 overtime. And I guess one is a request.
14 I -- I know we did send you a copy of the
15 report. You did respond. If it's okay,
16 I'd like if you can sort of respond to some
17 more of the specific cases. Not right
18 now --

19 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Sure.

20 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- because I'm sure
21 you won't have that. But in a -- I guess
22 in a form of a letter. Because what we
23 did, we -- we put together 100 of
24 individuals who made more than 50 percent

1 of their total salary in overtime.

2 And -- and you're correct. Many of
3 them -- most of them were not doctors or
4 nurses, but they were individuals like the
5 locksmith I mentioned before that made \$98
6 thousand, \$52 thousand in overtime.

7 We had a roofer and tinsmith at SUNY
8 Buffalo that made 96 thousand, 51 thousand
9 in overtime.

10 A teacher and research assistant
11 that make 140 thousand, 75 in overtime.
12 Just individuals like that, if it's okay --

13 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Sure.

14 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- I'd like to send
15 that to a letter. And if we could get some
16 specifics. Because I'm still -- would like
17 to know about, you know, the process in
18 place --

19 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

20 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- you know, and --
21 and why, you know, there isn't a red flag
22 at a managerial level or at SUNY Central
23 when something like that occurs.

24 The next question is, one -- in your

1 letter you mention, in one of the cases,
2 and I think it was SUNY Farmingdale, maybe
3 it was one of the other campuses, that you
4 mentioned there was a U.S. golf association
5 event.

6 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: And that was the
8 reason for the overtime.

9 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Would they be
11 reimbursed for overtime for an independent
12 event that had nothing to do with the SUNY
13 system?

14 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: I would
15 think so, but I -- I'd have to double check
16 that.

17 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Okay. Because
18 that -- that's something. Because it seems
19 there was a lot of overtime --

20 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Right.

21 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- expenditures --

22 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Right.

23 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- incurred from
24 that event --

1 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: I mean, that
2 to me sounds like that would make some sort
3 of recharge kind of thing --

4 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Correct.

5 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- but I
6 would definitely want to look into that --

7 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: That's seems --
8 that's an independent event independent --

9 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

10 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- of SUNY. So,
11 I -- I'd like information on that as well.

12 I -- I thank you. I just want to
13 kind of, I guess, get in on it. I went --
14 my colleague, Senator Foley, started, I
15 guess, on the -- the SUNY police force and
16 the recommendation that we made in the
17 report on consolidating --

18 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

19 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- the SUNY police
20 force instead of having individual police
21 forces at every campus, with separate
22 uniforms and insignia --

23 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

24 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- and supervisors

1 at various levels.

2 So, Brian, do you want to start
3 that?

4 SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you. And I
5 want to thank you, Vice Chancellor, for
6 appearing before the committee today.

7 And I'd like to thank Senator Klein
8 for organizing this committee. Certainly
9 this is part and parcel of our -- our
10 responsibilities. And it's my
11 understanding that a few, if there's been
12 any times in the past, where a similar kind
13 of committee was formed. We appreciate the
14 sensitive that you have as far as the
15 characterization of -- of some of the areas
16 that we're looking into. But please take
17 back to the Chancellor and to others within
18 your administration that this committee, in
19 a bipartisan fashion, is not so much -- is
20 trying to be both efficient, as well as
21 look at the effectiveness of different
22 agencies and how they are, let's say,
23 following through on the mission.

24 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

1 SENATOR FOLEY: So, it's not so much
2 a -- a -- a point of trying to be, let's
3 say, bureaucratically defensive, it's more
4 a fact that in our responsibility as
5 oversight in personnel we're trying to ask
6 some tough questions. And in so doing,
7 give the agency the -- the opportunity to
8 answer. And -- but at the end of the
9 process have a set of recommendations that
10 will, in fact, help the agency with its
11 mission.

12 And I think at the end of this
13 process that's we'll -- where we will end
14 up.

15 I had some questions on Research
16 Foundation, but as far as the police is
17 concerned, and we're going to hear from
18 some others who will give testimony --
19 testimony in this regard, but I could
20 explore, if you can answer today, if not,
21 then some follow up, as to how -- how the
22 University police in each campus, what --
23 what -- how do they interact with the local
24 police departments? Are -- are they

1 written, let's say, rules of -- of
2 interaction or -- or manual, if you will,
3 between -- within the campus, but also
4 between the campus and local police
5 jurisdiction?

6 On Long Island, for the most part,
7 is between two county police departments --

8 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

9 SENATOR FOLEY: -- Nassau and Suffix
10 County. How it works in other parts of the
11 state, others would have to raise that
12 question. But I would like to -- just --
13 just to know what would -- what is the,
14 let's say, rules of -- of interaction
15 between those two entities, and how a
16 unified police department, if you will,
17 the -- of -- of University system, how
18 would that, in your regards, would that be
19 more effective or less effective in police
20 in the campus grounds of the 64 campuses?

21 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Well, one
22 thing I know for sure is that when it comes
23 to policing, wherever you are, everything
24 is written down. There a lots of standard

1 operating procedures. And generally
2 speaking, the way relationships between
3 campus police and other local authorities
4 are managed are with contracts,
5 essentially, that are generally referred to
6 as Mutual Aid Agreements. And, so, there's
7 a real understanding. It -- and it often
8 is a function of the particular other local
9 police agency that has jurisdiction. It is
10 county? Is it city? And what will happen
11 is, leadership from each organization sit
12 down, they really walk through where one
13 jurisdiction ends and the other starts and,
14 frankly, where there is cross jurisdiction.

15 The reality is that for many of our
16 institutions that have relatively small
17 police departments, there has to be a great
18 deal of mutual cooperation.

19 And when -- when there is an
20 emergency it is all hands on deck. And
21 we've had examples of that.

22 SENATOR FOLEY: Uh-huh.

23 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: So, I
24 would -- I would absolutely concur with --

1 with your suggestion that there are written
2 agreements and -- and those are absolutely
3 available. And we'd be pleased to provide
4 that to -- to the committee, if you're --
5 if you're interested.

6 I -- I think the -- the issue of how
7 centralization may work, to be honest with
8 you, I -- I think we have to spend some
9 time, I certainly need to spend some time
10 with our -- with our folks who are at the
11 individual campuses exploring that
12 together --

13 SENATOR FOLEY: Uh-huh.

14 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- in a
15 cooperative fashion through some sort of
16 task force that looks at this issue in a
17 very cooperative sense so that whatever
18 decisions we make around efficiencies
19 really do make sense for the -- for the --
20 the local environment.

21 I think there are certainly -- there
22 are opportunities for -- for better savings
23 and efficiencies through centralizing some
24 functions.

1 Whether we ended up centralizing the
2 command structure, again, I'm -- I'm
3 keeping an open mind, but I really want to
4 be sensitive to what the literature and
5 what the study say about how that best
6 serves our -- our students.

7 And -- and I have to be honest with
8 you, I come to this issue with a
9 distinct -- the -- distinctly local
10 perspective, because I spent the majority
11 of my career in higher education on a
12 campus; on urban campuses, that had all
13 kinds of challenges around our vulnerable
14 population. And I really wanted to have
15 that connection, quite honestly, with
16 our -- with our chief of police so that I
17 knew in the middle of the night there was
18 somebody there who had command experience,
19 who could deal with the -- the unbelievable
20 variety of emergencies that -- that we had
21 to deal with.

22 SENATOR FOLEY: Uh-huh.

23 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: But it was
24 a -- it was an urban setting. It was,

1 frankly, a high crime environment. And,
2 so, that's not always going to be the case.

3 I could imagine, for example, that
4 we could consolidate. So, maybe, perhaps,
5 on a regional basis.

6 There might be some opportunities
7 for, like, campuses to look for those
8 efficiencies.

9 But I -- I would really want to pay
10 special attention to those campuses that
11 have remarkably different environments and
12 to always make sure that in the middle of
13 night we had the right command structure in
14 place.

15 SENATOR FOLEY: Right. And just as
16 one follow-up, I -- I think it was a final
17 point, but one well taken, that is as much
18 about social work as it is about law
19 enforcement on our university and college
20 campuses. I think that was a point that
21 you were making as well --

22 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Right.

23 SENATOR FOLEY: -- in which it makes
24 it slightly different from the outside

1 world of -- of law enforcement.

2 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Absolutely.

3 SENATOR FOLEY: It's a combination
4 of the two.

5 Okay. Thank you.

6 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Thank you.

7 SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr.
8 Chairman.

9 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: I -- I guess that's
10 a good lead into the question I have is,
11 what's the standard policy, I guess, for
12 hiring department chiefs, chiefs and deputy
13 chiefs at the SUNY system?

14 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Well,
15 currently, I -- I believe that -- that you
16 are -- you've got that data. That -- that
17 every department has a chief.

18 I don't know that every department,
19 but I do believe the majority of every
20 department has what I would call a Number
21 2; whether it's called a deputy or --

22 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Most of them
23 have --

24 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- a

1 lieutenant, but --

2 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- actual chiefs --

3 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Yeah.

4 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- chiefs of police
5 and then deputy chief --

6 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Yeah. So,
7 that --

8 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- of police --

9 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- is the
10 current practice --

11 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- and then some
12 cases assistant chief of police.

13 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Well, one --
14 you know, you've got to look at those
15 titles carefully because I -- I know in
16 some environments the assistant chief is
17 actually performing a variety of
18 administrative functions; managing the
19 budget, managing facilities. And that is
20 one thing I -- I --

21 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: It's just the
22 chiefs seem to get paid, you know, a lot
23 more. Some as high as 145 thousand and the
24 assistants, you know, usually about 90 --

1 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

2 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- 85 thousand.

3 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Well, I -- I
4 think that data is largely correct.

5 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: I -- I guess to
6 answer the question, is there any
7 background requirements that they actually
8 have a career in law enforcement?

9 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Yes. I
10 think for the majority of our departments
11 that are -- you know, they're sworn
12 officers, so they have to have all the
13 credentials --

14 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: So, in other
15 words --

16 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- of the
17 licence --

18 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- if -- if -- if
19 they're at the supervisory level; either a
20 chief, a deputy chief or an assistant
21 chief, they have to have experience in law
22 enforcement?

23 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Absolutely.

24 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Okay. I just had

1 one more question. And, I guess -- does
2 anyone have any questions on the actual
3 police -- SUNY Police?

4 SENATOR MAZIARZ: Thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman. I -- I appreciate that.

6 Vice Chancellor, how many -- just --
7 I don't know if you're aware of this or not
8 or maybe you could just -- make you back
9 out -- any of them currently retired law
10 enforcement officers; either chiefs or some
11 other element of law enforcement, and they
12 come back to work?

13 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: I think
14 there are a significant number that have a
15 previous background in other -- some --

16 SENATOR MAZIARZ: So --

17 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- other law
18 enforcement field --

19 SENATOR MAZIARZ: -- so it's
20 possibly that some of them may be
21 collecting their pensions and this salary
22 level that --

23 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Well,
24 we're -- I know we're --

1 SENATOR MAZIARZ: -- Senator Klein
2 mentioned.

3 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- very
4 sensitive to, and I -- I don't know if it's
5 "regulation" or a "statute", but it's
6 the -- as I recall, the 211/212 issue. And
7 in those particular instances where you
8 have someone retiring; a law enforcement
9 officer retiring from some other state
10 service and then taking another position,
11 my understanding is that there is a waiver
12 in place; that that matter has been
13 addressed pursuant to the regulations.

14 SENATOR MAZIARZ: Thank you.

15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Does anyone have
17 any other questions on the SUNY police?

18 I -- I just want to move just --
19 I -- I guess this is the last area as far
20 as the line of questions.

21 I just want to get back to the
22 hospital --

23 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

24 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- or medical

1 school personnel. I guess -- I wanted to
2 see -- because we saw a lot of, you know,
3 very, very, I guess, large salaries. And,
4 I guess, the question is, in a general way,
5 I guess someone working for SUNY, how can
6 they make, you know, more than a half a
7 million dollars a year? And some of them
8 are -- aren't actually medical doctors,
9 they're actually teachers or research
10 people.

11 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

12 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: And, I guess, my
13 question, is this -- and, I guess, a
14 leading question, but, I guess, is -- is --

15 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: That's all
16 right. I'm used to that.

17 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- is it because
18 that you're trying, I guess, be competitive
19 in some way with the private sector?
20 Because some of these salaries, actually,
21 in some cases, probably would surpass what
22 a doctor would make, you know, in a
23 not-for-profit or private institution.

24 And, I guess, how is the pay scale

1 determined --

2 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

3 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- for someone who
4 actually, I guess, is someone working at
5 SUNY Downstate and, let's say, doing heart
6 surgery and teaching, how is their salary
7 determined or broken down?

8 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Sure. Well,
9 I -- I appreciate, actually, your leading
10 question because I -- I think it is
11 absolutely true that our industry is
12 incredibly competitive. There's no doubt
13 about that. And, frankly, we are -- we are
14 competing with institutions of higher
15 education not just around salaries, but,
16 frankly, facilities and opportunities
17 around research. And -- and this is
18 just -- this is across all lines. It's not
19 exclusive to our -- our physician
20 educators.

21 We have a pretty in depth process
22 for negotiating salaries. First of all,
23 they are all negotiated. With the vast
24 majority of our employees we do have a

1 play -- a pay plan. There is an executive
2 pay plan, which has standards around all
3 aspects of compensation. And those
4 standards are driven by two things:
5 Analogous titles in the rest of state
6 government, as well as market conditions.

7 And, so, we have access to, I
8 believe it is the -- it's called CUPA. And
9 I'm blanking here on what "CUPA" stands
10 for, but it's our national organization
11 that collects data on salaries in higher
12 education. And we really use that to
13 benchmark where we are. And in some
14 instances we probably are exceeding the
15 CUPA average and in some instances we are
16 under the CUPA average, but those two
17 things. So, the state environment, our --
18 our executive pay plan, our -- our regular
19 pay plan and market conditions drive our
20 salaries.

21 With titles that are associate, vice
22 chancellor associate -- I'm going to get
23 my -- my vernacular here because it's
24 switched from what I'm used to, but that

1 associate to the president level, those are
2 subject to a very public process. And,
3 certainly, the associate vice chancellor
4 and higher goes through our Board of
5 Trustees where all aspects of the
6 appointment, including compensation, are
7 properly noticed and subject to a public
8 hearing process.

9 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: I -- I guess --
10 well, the positions that I have weren't
11 chancellors, it was professors and chair at
12 Downstate Medical Center --

13 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

14 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- and -- and I
15 guess that's what -- the salary rate was
16 \$466,709, but the total compensation was
17 947,462.

18 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

19 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: How did that -- you
20 know, what is -- how does the total
21 compensation package work?

22 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Well, as
23 I -- I mean, it's consistent across,
24 including, for our physician educators --

1 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: So, is this someone
2 who actually got paid a certain salary or
3 rate of pay for their teaching and then for
4 the actual surgery work --

5 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Yeah.
6 For -- for --

7 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- they did in the
8 hospital?

9 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- most
10 part. And I -- I think that -- well, I
11 have to get this right here. Brooklyn
12 might be slightly different in terms of
13 their sources and uses. But for the most
14 part, faculty at colleges of medicine
15 are -- or academic health centers have
16 really three components to their
17 compensation. There's their base salary,
18 which is associated with teaching and
19 service; there is salary associated with
20 the healthcare services that they provide.
21 They're compensated for that as part of a
22 practice plan. And then there may be --
23 may be some additional compensation for --
24 to incentivize research dollars that they

1 bring in. Those are --

2 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: See, that --
3 that --

4 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- generally
5 the three components --

6 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- that's the third
7 part that I'm not clear on. I kind of
8 understood the other two; that there would
9 be a basic salary rate. And, then, I
10 guess, if they have certainty a specialty,
11 that hospital would want them. And, you
12 know, it's something that's important for
13 the hospital. And they work out an
14 arrangement --

15 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

16 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- where, let's
17 say, they bring in, you know, 15 surgeries;
18 you know, heart surgeries, a year and they
19 work out an arrangement where they get "X"
20 amount of dollars. I know that's one.

21 So, the third one; so they can be
22 compensated separately from the
23 foundation --

24 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Well, I

1 don't know if I would call it separately,
2 but it's one of the drivers of the
3 negotiation process, Senator, because the
4 reality is that in academic health centers
5 the research that these faculty bring with
6 them are really as important as the
7 teaching, service and healthcare that they
8 provide. It's a huge part of what these
9 academic health centers do. And it's a --
10 it what -- it's what distinguishes us from
11 other not-for-profit compliance --

12 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Well, I guess
13 what --

14 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: --
15 institutions --

16 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- I'm getting at,
17 I'm trying to figure out if, you know,
18 I'm -- I'm looking at this total
19 compensation for this specific professor.
20 Is there additional compensation that I
21 don't know about because it's coming from
22 the SUNY Research Foundation. So, is it
23 possible that, I guess, this \$947 thousand
24 chair could be -- make even more than that?

1 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Well, I'll
2 tell you what, I will look at those
3 specific situations. Off the top of my
4 head, I do not know what the sources and
5 uses of their total compensation package
6 is. But that is certainly something we can
7 find out.

8 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: One more
9 question --

10 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Certainly.

11 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- as far as the
12 foundation. Is there a way, and I guess,
13 you'll be able to answer that, I guess,
14 when you give the information on the chair,
15 but is there a way that we have this SUNY
16 Research Foundation --

17 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

18 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- clearly, as you
19 said before, it was formed as an
20 independent, not-for-profit. I -- is there
21 a way that we can somehow offset these very
22 high salaries by instead of, you know,
23 coming out of SUNY payroll, being
24 supplemented by the Research Foundation?

1 So, in other words, if someone is
2 getting a total compensation of \$947
3 thousand, you know, could a portion of that
4 money be directly from the SUNY Research
5 Foundation so we can actually offset the
6 cost, and we don't have to constantly be,
7 you know, cutting, you know, vital programs
8 to our students at the SUNY system? And, I
9 guess, you'll answer the question if you
10 can tell me -- evidently, it could -- it
11 possible could be that this person who made
12 \$947 thousand made even more than that.

13 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.
14 Well, one thing I -- I do want to be clear
15 about with regard to resources that are in
16 the R.F., is that a significant portion of
17 those resources are encumbered.

18 In other words, when dollars come in
19 to perform research from this sponsor, we
20 are required to spend those dollars on that
21 research. So, that will -- that will
22 affect the size of, you know, at first
23 blush, it looks like. And we count those
24 research expenditures. But they are

1 absolutely encumbered.

2 In terms of using a percentage of
3 overhead to offset compensation, you know,
4 I -- I -- let me look at those individuals
5 because if -- if, in fact, there are -- are
6 folks that are being compensated to the
7 R.F., and I'm -- I -- I know we looked at
8 that, I'm sure I can get that data for you,
9 then the answer is, I supposed we could
10 consider doing that more often. But the
11 primary purpose of the R.F. is to use
12 overhead to find more ways to bring in --
13 to pay for additional research, to
14 incentivize more research and to -- to
15 engage in the tech transferred process,
16 which is a lot like venture capital. I
17 mean, you have to invest a lot of resource
18 in order to get that one, you know, miracle
19 invention from bedside to -- to market
20 place.

21 So, what we -- we -- we might be
22 offsetting in one area and then losing
23 opportunity in another. And -- and that
24 is -- you know, that's not unique to our

1 business, but it certainly very intense;
2 that when you're looking at one issue, you
3 certainly have to step back and look at the
4 consequences of how that may impact other
5 areas of our -- both our operating budget
6 and our capital budget and our research
7 activity.

8 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: I thank you very
9 much.

10 Does anyone have any other
11 questions?

12 SENATOR FOLEY: Mr. Chairman, just
13 if I may?

14 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Sure.

15 SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you. Just as,
16 again, we spent quite a bit of time on
17 Research Foundation, but it is one of the
18 areas that both here and also Higher
19 Education Committee has explored.

20 When Senator Johnson asked you some
21 questions about Research Foundation and
22 some of the responses gave us part of the
23 answer. But what I would like, if you
24 could, Vice Chancellor, you mentioned about

1 a -- it will be an open process. Has an
2 R.F.P. been sent out --

3 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: No --

4 SENATOR FOLEY: -- on -- on this?

5 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- it -- it
6 hasn't --

7 SENATOR FOLEY: Or how -- how do you
8 intent to -- what will the process be?
9 Will it be advertising? What kind of
10 outreach will there be in -- in -- as you
11 described it in this open process that
12 you'll undertake?

13 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Well, I
14 think it's going to be an open process,
15 that we're going to use, you know, the
16 R.F.P. for --

17 SENATOR FOLEY: Okay.

18 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: --
19 getting -- getting the feedback from --
20 from -- from all of you.

21 SENATOR FOLEY: Okay.

22 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: I will say
23 that we were first looking at the array of
24 opportunities; that we're sort of surveying

1 the market, and who --

2 SENATOR FOLEY: Okay.

3 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- might
4 participate. But --

5 SENATOR FOLEY: Okay.

6 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- we're
7 very open. And I get the strong sense that
8 you would like to see this go through an
9 R.F.P. process. And -- and we will
10 certainly undertake that --

11 SENATOR FOLEY: Well, this -- you
12 know, this is professional services. So,
13 sometimes it does goes through R.F.P.,
14 other times it does not --

15 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Right.

16 SENATOR FOLEY: If -- if -- if the
17 best approach is -- is through an R.F.P.,
18 then that's fine. Just keeping us apprised
19 of how that will unfold, and how the
20 advertisement will occur.

21 And you mentioned early back going
22 outside of New York State. Is there a
23 reason why -- I mean, maybe it's obvious,
24 but if you could just state why you wish to

1 go outside New York State. Certainly there
2 are professionals within the state who
3 could also --

4 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

5 SENATOR FOLEY: -- let's say, be --
6 be in the mix of potential professionals.

7 But why did you not want to have any
8 New York State concerns involved with this?

9 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: I -- I -- if
10 I -- if I said that we wanted to
11 exclusively go outside of the state I
12 misspoke.

13 SENATOR FOLEY: That's all right --

14 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: I'm actually
15 a big fan of a diversity of experience.
16 But my primary interest in -- in getting
17 some folks from outside of the state was to
18 get people who had experience with other
19 collegiate --

20 SENATOR FOLEY: Okay.

21 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: -- research
22 foundations.

23 SENATOR FOLEY: Gotcha. Okay, very
24 good. All right. Thank you.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Senator Cousins.

3 SENATOR COUSINS: Yes. I -- I -- I
4 didn't really have a question. And, I
5 guess, I just waited to the end to -- to
6 say that I see the opportunities that SUNY
7 has to be very, very great. And I really
8 appreciate listening to your testimony. I
9 looked and see that you've been here since
10 October. And, so, I'm sure this
11 environment is very, very difficult to
12 begin. And although, as you said, there's
13 not zero base budgeting, it sounds to me
14 like reports such as this gives you at
15 least the ground zero kind of --

16 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

17 SENATOR COUSINS: -- place to begin
18 to look at the operations.

19 And listening to -- to you and
20 you're willingness to -- to take a look and
21 to -- to begin at the beginning, the
22 middle, whatever it's required, is very,
23 very heartening.

24 So, I'm -- I really am -- I want to

1 thank Senator Klein for doing this report.
2 And in many ways I think it will be helpful
3 for you as you begin --

4 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Uh-huh.

5 SENATOR COUSINS: -- to take a look
6 at the varies aspects of -- of governments
7 there at SUNY.

8 So, we -- we look forward to the
9 partnership. And I really wish you good
10 luck.

11 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Thank you.

12 SENATOR COUSINS: I -- I think
13 you're a wonderful asset.

14 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Thank you.
15 I appreciate it. And I -- I, too, very
16 much agree with your observations about the
17 value of -- of this committee and the --
18 the report.

19 SENATOR COUSINS: I thank you.

20 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Again, Vice
22 Chancellor, I want to thank you so much
23 for testifying --

24 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Thank you,

1 Senator --

2 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- before the Task
3 Force today.

4 VICE CHANCELLOR RIMAI: Thanks --
5 thanks to all of you.

6 SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you.

7 Next we're going to have, I guess,
8 both at the same time in the interest of
9 saving some time, Council 82, represented
10 by James Lyman, the Executive Director, and
11 Pete Barry, Executive Vice President of the
12 SUNY Police Officers Union.

13 Thank you so much for coming by
14 today, guys.

15 MR. BARRY: Thank you for your --

16 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Who wants --

17 MR. BARRY: -- invitation.

18 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- who wants to
19 start?

20 MR. LYMAN: I guess I will,
21 Chairman.

22 Chairman Klein, distinguished
23 members of the New York State Senate Task
24 Force on Government Efficiency, good

1 afternoon and thank you for the opportunity
2 to speak here today about suggestions and
3 recommendations on ways to improve the
4 administration, operation of the State
5 University -- State University of New York
6 Police Department in order to eliminate
7 wasteful spending and to increase
8 efficiency.

9 My name is James Lyman. I am the
10 Executive Director of Council 82 for the
11 New York State Law Enforcement Officers
12 Union. I represent nearly 5,000 law
13 enforcement officers across this great
14 state. I appear before you today on behalf
15 of James McCartney, the president of New
16 York State University Police Officers
17 Union, Local 1792. Local 1792 represents
18 approximately 450 police officers and
19 police investigators that work on the 28
20 state operated universities and campuses.
21 My testimony today will hopefully offer
22 suggestions for you to consider as ways to
23 reduce the wasteful spending occurring
24 within the State University Police

1 Department, to improve the overall
2 operation of the State University Police
3 Department and to save the State of New
4 York a substantial amount of money during
5 this fiscal crisis currently facing New
6 York State.

7 Just to vere off for a minute.
8 Sitting here, no disrespect to the Vice
9 Chancellor, and she's only been here since
10 October, she's taken a lot in, but it was
11 very aggravating in the fact that, not that
12 it was not truth, but there are police
13 chiefs in SUNY who are not mandating
14 policer officers, certified, whatever. We
15 have police chiefs that refuse to
16 voluntarily give up their fingerprints.

17 So, I just had to get that out
18 before I lose my train of thought because I
19 was --

20 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: Well, if you can
21 supply the Task Force, you know, with the
22 specifics --

23 MR. LYMAN: I'll --

24 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- that will be

1 part of my follow up --

2 MR. LYMAN: -- our -- and we'll make
3 our members completely available --

4 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- to the --

5 MR. LYMAN: -- to you. I mean --

6 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: -- to the Vice
7 Chancellor --

8 MR. LYMAN: -- it was -- in my 25
9 years in law enforcement I've never before
10 seen an operation such as that which is
11 employed by the State University Police
12 Department. Whether it was pure ignorance
13 on my part or the mere assumption that the
14 State University Police Department operated
15 the same as any other police department in
16 this state or country, I was truly amazed
17 and appalled 8 years ago when I assumed the
18 leadership role at Council 82. And I
19 learned firsthand how SUNY actually
20 operated, let alone the obvious fiscal
21 mismanagement that was taking place.

22 The State University of New York,
23 the largest public university system in the
24 United States, consists of 64 campus, 28

1 state operated colleges, 30 community
2 colleges, 5 statutory colleges and the
3 Empire College. SUNY System Administration
4 provides general oversight of SUNY
5 operations. System Administration's Office
6 of University Police is responsible for
7 coordinating police operations throughout
8 the SUNY system and setting training,
9 hiring, operational standards and emergency
10 management preparation. The New York State
11 University Police Departments are located
12 at each of the 28 state operated colleges
13 and are the primary law enforcement
14 agencies handling all crimes, requests for
15 assistance, and service calls that occur on
16 State University property. To familiarize
17 this task force with an understanding of
18 what a New York State policing
19 organizational structure looks like, I
20 refer you to the model employed by the
21 State Troopers, the Environmental
22 Conservation Police, Forest Rangers and the
23 Park Police. Each department utilizes a
24 rank and file system, with a singular

1 leader who delegates the required actions
2 necessary to fulfill the mission of the
3 agency. The size of the agency has no
4 adverse impact on this model, as evidenced
5 by the Environmental Conservation Police,
6 who have one-third the numbers of the State
7 University Police or the State Troopers,
8 who have ten times as many.

9 The State University system employs
10 a completely different model of policing; a
11 model which is not found in any other form
12 of government. At SUNY, each campus police
13 department, technically, is not affiliated
14 with any other police department in the
15 SUNY system. Each campus employs their own
16 police chief and organizational structure,
17 beyond what the SUNY Statewide Manual of
18 Rules defines. To clarify, each campus
19 police department relies on SUNY to
20 recruit, collectively bargain, and pay
21 their police officers, but they do not have
22 to answer in any way to SUNY System
23 Administration's Office of University
24 Police. What's more, is that instead of

1 having a singular commissioner, with a
2 career or experience making critical
3 decisions, many campuses have appointed --
4 appointed police chiefs, without police
5 officer experience or certification in this
6 state.

7 The State Comptroller's Office has
8 published a report which stated that
9 two-thirds of SUNY colleges report campus
10 crime statistics to the Federal Department
11 of Education that conflicted, in some cases
12 substantially, with the colleges' internal
13 records. If a qualified police
14 commissioner was charged with the safety
15 and police administration of SUNY's 28
16 campuses, these incidents of underreporting
17 crime would not have occurred, ensuing
18 compliance by ensuring proper oversight.

19 The current structure of the police
20 department has an adverse financial impact
21 on the state university system. Based on
22 salary figures obtained from the New York
23 State Comptroller's Office as of June,
24 2008, the state university policing model

1 uses 65 management confidential positions,
2 at a cost of \$6.2 million to run the
3 day-to-day operations of it's 28 police
4 departments. Conversely, the other 3
5 police agencies in New York State, the
6 Division of State Police, the Environmental
7 Conservation and the Parks Police utilize
8 only 24 management confidential positions,
9 at a cost of \$3.8 million, even though they
10 collectively supervise over 4,500 more
11 police officers than the State University.
12 This is where the redundancy of management
13 confidential positions is most glaring, and
14 where an opportunity for SUNY to save,
15 literally, millions of dollars exists.

16 Because each police department is
17 independently operated, each employs their
18 own manual of procedures; a manual of
19 procedures is a standard feature in any
20 institution by no more so than within a
21 police department. Yet, SUNY police
22 department -- SUNY -- yet some SUNY police
23 departments do not have a manual of
24 procedures. This means that a police

1 office has little or no direction as to how
2 the university wishes to address a specific
3 problem, thus liability issues arise.

4 Training on some of our campuses in
5 nonexistent, which means that through the
6 Chancellor's task force on critical
7 incidents recommended specific training for
8 police response to a critical incident such
9 as Virginia Tech, not all campuses have
10 trained their officers for such an event.
11 From a Union standpoint, we implore this
12 task force to seriously consider the
13 suggestions that we -- we will present here
14 today and to also consider the 36 other
15 state university campuses and how the
16 safety and security is handled there as
17 well. We would ask that if centralization
18 is implemented, that they should also
19 include these campuses, which now are
20 either handled by peace officers, security
21 officers or no one at all. And that a
22 chain of command or a supervisory career
23 ladder system be implemented here --
24 thereby allowing for career growth by

1 university police officers, which is nearly
2 nonexistent today. As a Union we will
3 continue to fight for our officers to
4 secure better working conditions, and
5 benefits, especially disability and
6 retirement benefits which are afforded to
7 other police officers in the State, but not
8 the university police.

9 From the standpoint of a taxpayer
10 and father of two high school juniors who
11 will be attending college in the very near
12 future, and younger children in the distant
13 future, I believe that the facts presented
14 here today speak for themselves. How can
15 such governmental waste be tolerated, and
16 how can the safety and security of our
17 greatest asset, our youth, be ignored?
18 These messages have been conveyed to the
19 SUNY Board of Directors in the past and the
20 Governor's office and have landed on deaf
21 ears because no one wants to end someone
22 else's political huckle. The time has
23 come, and the citizens of this state are
24 fed up with government waste and

1 corruption. And it certainly appears that
2 SUNY as a whole is ripe and needs to be
3 cleansed once and for all. Please correct
4 the problems and do not allow the State
5 University Police Department to continue to
6 be a dumping ground for political patronage
7 jobs anymore.

8 That being said, I would like the
9 panel to think about a common theme that is
10 very prevalent during these difficult
11 fiscal times: Consolidation of
12 Governmental services. Everywhere we look
13 in today's society we see governmental
14 entities exploring ways to deliver the same
15 quality of services while attempting to cut
16 waste and reduce the duplication of those
17 same services, whether that be on the
18 federal, state, county or local level, even
19 in the private sector. The State
20 University of New York currently uses a
21 model of policing which opens itself to
22 redundancy, inefficiency, financial waste,
23 erroneous crime reporting, and difficulty
24 in maintaining a consistent professional

1 image.

2 Council 82 and The New York State
3 University Police Officers Union strongly
4 recommends that this task force will
5 support the establishment of a centralized
6 model of policing to be implemented within
7 the State University of New York, that a
8 single -- a singular police commissioner's
9 office, appointment by the chancellor or
10 the Board of Trustees be charged with
11 overseeing the day-to-day operations of our
12 police agency, with full authority to make
13 the necessary changes to carry out the
14 mission of the state university police. I
15 have brought along and provided copies of
16 anything for the members of the task force.

17 I thank you for your time and
18 consideration and I'd be happy to take any
19 questions.

20 CHAIRMAN KLEIN: All right. Mr.
21 Barry. I guess will do -- answer questions
22 after you both --

23 MR. BARRY: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I
24 would like to apologize in advance if my

1 testimony is redundant in any way to Mr.
2 Lyman's, but that seems to be the SUNY way.
3 So, hopefully you'll bear with me.

4 (Laughter)

5 Chairman Klein, members of the Task
6 Force on Government Efficiency, good
7 morning (sic). My name is Peter Barry. I
8 am the Vice president and Legislative
9 Director of the New York State University
10 Police Officers Union, Local 1792 of the
11 American Federation of State, County, and
12 Municipal Employees, AFSCME, Council 82 and
13 AFL-CIO. I resent -- I represent the
14 approximately 450 police officers and
15 investigators that work in the 28 police
16 departments of SUNY's state operated
17 campuses. Currently, I work as a SUNY -- a
18 State University Police Officer at the
19 University of Albany. Thank you for
20 welcoming me here today.

21 I'm here to bring to your attention
22 a matter within SUNY which over the last 10
23 plus years has become a major source of
24 financial waste and considerable redundancy

1 to the SUNY System and to offer for your
2 consideration initiatives that the Union
3 believes will result in improved campus
4 safety, greater efficiency and help save
5 the taxpayers millions of dollars.

6 In 1998 the New York State
7 Legislature passed the "University Police
8 Bill", which authorized all SUNY campuses
9 to employ a police department charged with
10 providing for the safety and security of
11 their respective campus communities. On
12 the first day of 1999, when this bill
13 became law, it quickly became evident that
14 SUNY had no master plan to implement any
15 type of universally accepted police
16 administrative model, nor had any long term
17 goals and/or strategies for university
18 policing.

19 Currently, SUNY operates with 28
20 different police departments; one police
21 department for each of it's campuses.
22 That's 28 different sets of regulations,
23 budgets, policies, rank structures, and
24 uniform variations; 28 different standards,

1 goals, and police philosophies, right down
2 to the stripings (sic) on the university
3 police cars. Within SUNY, each campus
4 police department, technically, is not
5 affiliated with any other police department
6 in the SUNY system, which means that each
7 campus employs its own police chief and
8 organizational structure beyond what the
9 SUNY Statewide Manual of Rules defines.

10 Each campus police department relies
11 on SUNY Central Administration to recruit,
12 collectively bargain, and pay their police
13 officers, but they do not have to answer,
14 in any way, to SUNY System's Administration
15 Office of University Police. It is the
16 equivalent of having a New York City
17 precinct captain who does not have to
18 report to the city's police commissioner.
19 Furthermore, instead of having a singular
20 experienced SUNY police commissioner, with
21 a career of critical decision making
22 experience, many campuses have appointed
23 chiefs of police who have no police officer
24 experience or New York State certification.