



Legislative Post Audit Performance Audit Report Highlights

Regents' Information Systems: Following Up On Computer-Security Issues At Various Universities

Report Highlights

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Audit Concern

This audit follows up on the recommendations from our 2005 audit of IT security at three Regents' universities—Kansas State University, Emporia State University, and the University of Kansas.

Key Facts & Findings

- We followed up on 107 policy recommendations from the 2005 audit:
 - ESU fully implemented 28 of its 41 recommendations
 - KSU fully implemented only 7 of its 33 recommendations
 - KU fully implemented only 5 of its 33 recommendations
- Our testing of actual practices in six policy areas found significant problems with the access controls at one university.
- Because publically identifying certain control weaknesses could compromise universities' security, our detailed findings are described in confidential reports for each university.

Estimated Cost Savings:
None

AUDIT QUESTION 1: *Have the Regents' institutions adequately addressed the security recommendations from our 2005 computer-security audit?*

AUDIT ANSWER:

- The 2005 audit included a number of recommendations related to missing or inadequate security policies, and to non-policy areas such as the authority of the security officer position.
- The three universities have fully implemented very few of the policy recommendations from the 2005 report in such areas as access controls, incident response, and physical security.
- The universities have implemented most of the non-policy recommendations from the 2005 audit report, in such areas as security management and the organization of their IT infrastructure.
- Security policies are the foundation of a well-designed system of security management, and the three universities generally have done a poor job implementing the policy recommendations over the last three years.

We Recommended

- The universities should develop and approve written security policies by January 2010 for all the recommendations that haven't yet been fully addressed, and report periodically on their progress.
- The Legislative Post Audit Committee and the Joint Committee on Information Technology should receive testimony from the universities on the status of these policy recommendations sometime after January 2010.

Agency Response: *In general, the universities agreed with the report and our recommendations. In the responses to the confidential reports, both Kansas State and Emporia State had issues with a recommendation on access control.*

**DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR
IMPROVED GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY OR COST SAVINGS?**

If you have an idea to share with us, send it to ideas@lpa.ks.gov, or write to us at the address shown. We will pass along the best ones to the Legislative Post Audit Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE DIVISION OF
POST AUDIT**

800 SW Jackson
Suite 1200
Topeka, Kansas 66612-2212
Telephone (785) 296-3792
FAX (785) 296-4482
E-mail: LPA@lpa.ks.gov
Website:
<http://kslegislature.org/postaudit>

Barbara J. Hinton,
Legislative Post Auditor

For more information about this
audit report, please contact

ALLAN FOSTER
(785) 296-3792
allan.foster@lpa.ks.gov