

Capital Budget Testimony

JONATHAN C. GIBRALTER, PRESIDENT

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PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the importance of our Public Safety Building, which is included in the Governor's Capital Budget for Frostburg State University. This project is necessary to ensure the safety of our campus community and the ability of our University Police to respond to crises both on campus and in the neighborhoods surrounding campus where many of our students live.

Following incidents of violence at Virginia Tech and other universities, the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland established a policy encouraging all USM campus police departments to become accredited by a professional police accrediting agency. A review of existing police department policies and the standards of accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for



Law Enforcement Agencies

Figure 1: Proposed Public Safety Building

(CALEA) determined the current building housing University Police presented the largest number of and most significant impediments to Frostburg State University meeting accreditation standards.



Figure 2: Current Public Safety Facility

The current facility is more than 60 years old, built originally as a schoolhouse. Its security measures are inadequate for law enforcement purposes, impacting communications, records management, detention and property/evidence control. Space

limitations prevent addressing

these shortfalls through renovation of the existing facility. The existing structure lacks a women's locker room, which has hampered recruitment of female officers, and it is too small to add such a facility. Furthermore, the existing facility limits efforts to expand the professional

capabilities of our department. For example, most crime scene processing and evidence collection is currently done by officers assigned to the local investigative task force rather than by our own officers. The facility prevents our University Police from becoming more involved in the processing of on-campus crimes.

Originally slated for design in Fiscal Year 2016 with construction to follow in Fiscal Year 2017, thanks to this committee, the project was advanced in the capital queue in light of the pressing public safety implications. In the Fiscal Year 2015 capital budget, we received \$400,000 in funding for planning and design, and we are working with the service center at



College Park to design and plan construction of the building, pending final funding approval. If construction funding is maintained in the Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2016, we anticipate breaking ground in July 2015, after which we can begin the process of obtaining CALEA accreditation.

Figure 3: FSU's Health Center was built in 1968 to serve a population one-third the size of

We are indebted to everyone involved for recognizing the immediate need for this building on campus. We are eager to move forward on this project and ask for your support of the

Governor's capital budget and your continued support of this project.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

We have also submitted our Part 1 program document to the Department of Budget and Management for our Education and Health Sciences Center, which is currently in the Capital Improvement Plan for planning and design in Fiscal Year 2019. Construction is anticipated in Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022, following a yearlong deferment in Fiscal 2020. This deferment will complicate planning and design for the project, potentially resulting in avoidable cost overruns. I urge this committee to advance the project in the governor's Capital Improvement Plan, preferably for design in Fiscal Year 2017 with construction to follow in Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019. The advanced timeline would facilitate more accurate cost estimation and reduce overall costs for this project.

The new facility will serve as a permanent home for our proposed College of Health Sciences, for which a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing have already been approved. These programs will be joined by our Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences, which is currently under review by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and a Physician's Assistant program when it receives accreditation, anticipated in 2019. These programs will produce the health practitioners needed to address a shortfall of primary care providers in Western Maryland, which is indicative of a national shortage of health care providers for rural areas. The facility will replace our aging Brady Health Center, built in 1968 for a population of only 1,600 students, and create a campus health center that better caters to a population of nearly 6,000 students, while simultaneously training new health practitioners.

This building will also house our current College of Education, which now resides in a facility built in 1965 and last renovated in 1980. The new space for the College of Education will provide technology necessary to instruct future educators to best teach STEM concepts to their own students, which will result in a cascading positive effect on the STEM literacy of the Maryland K-12 students they encounter in their teaching careers.



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