



Appropriations – Subcommittee on Capital Budget
Hearing - Capital Community College Facilities Grant Program
March 20, 2015 - 1:00 P.m.

Submitted by Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D., Executive Director

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges represents all of Maryland's sixteen community colleges and the 516,000 students they serve.

In 2007, the General Assembly required the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) to develop a combined capital budget request for funding capital projects at 15 of the 16 community colleges (BCCC is a state agency). In April, the Maryland Council of Community College Presidents approved the MACC Prioritization Model and submitted the first combined capital request based on the funding anticipated in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) during the 2008 General Assembly. The model incorporated historic planning and vetting processes and utilized MHEC, DBM, & DLS funding factors used in making previous funding decisions.

This process and the Prioritization Model provided a collegial manner for the community colleges to request funding for all 15 institutions. All community college presidents endorse the prioritization at their annual retreat and respect the way the projects become prioritized for funding, even though it might mean that their project may not be funded. The model has remained in place since 2007 with minor modifications and has changed to accommodate split funding of projects over two fiscal years, based on a project cash flow and schedule for completion. However, the 2016 capital prioritization process was not fully funded as represented in the vetted Prioritization Model.

Unfortunately, the decision reached during the capital deliberations did not give priority to projects identified for funding through MAAC's collegial process. MACC recognizes the efforts of the capital budget subcommittee chair, and the Secretary and staff of the Department of Budget Management to restore the recommended prioritization of projects. Moving forward, MACC requests that the prioritization of capital projects recommended through MACC's collegial process be followed. We also request that if a departure from the priority list is necessary, it be done in collaboration with the MACC offices.

MACC supports the revised project list given the fiscal bonding constraints the committee is encountering, but uncertainty exists for those projects which were eliminated from the approved list. Two projects that were removed from the prioritization list were not accounted for in the FY 17 pre-approved list. MACC, therefore, requests consideration for those two projects. The first project is the Hagerstown Community College Learning Resource Center renovation and the second project is the Prince George's Community College Marlboro Hall renovation. It is important to move forward with these projects.

Hopefully, the committee recognizes that our community colleges have a backlog of proposed new projects and buildings in need of renovations. In addition, our projects are supported by local funding authority and act as a regional economic stimulus.