

**Morgan State
University**

**Maryland's
Public Urban
University**

Legislative Testimony FY 2015 Capital Budget

Presented to:
**Senate Subcommittee on
Capital Budget
and
House Subcommittee on
Capital Budget**

March 2014

**Dr. David Wilson
President**

**RICHARD N. DIXON
SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER**



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Testimony

Fiscal Year 2015 Capital Budget

Morgan State University

David Wilson, President

March 2014



David Wilson,
President

I am pleased to appear before you in support of the Governor's capital budget recommendation and to respond to any questions you may have.

PROJECTS IN PROCESS

The University is very appreciative of the support it has received over the years for capital improvements. The ongoing investments are moving us closer to our goal of providing state-of-the-art teaching and research environments for our students in every area of study. These capital improvements are critical to the advancement of our University and position us to more effectively prepare our students to respond to the workforce demands of today and tomorrow. They also position us to attract a more diverse body of students, well-qualified faculty and additional research dollars, which in turn will enhance our status as a doctoral/research institution.

As the University receives more support, it plays an increasingly important role in the advancement of minorities in critical areas of study in the state of Maryland and in the nation. For instance, we rank 1st nationally in the number of electrical engineering bachelor's degrees, 1st nationally in the number of civil engineering bachelor's degrees, 2nd nationally in the number of industrial engineering bachelor's degrees, and 3rd in the nation in the number of architecture bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans. We are among the top five institutions in the nation in awarding baccalaureate degrees to African Americans in engineering, architecture and journalism. We are among the top 20 institutions in the nation awarding baccalaureate degrees to African Americans in the fields of hospitality, accounting and marketing. Finally, we rank 1st in Maryland and 7th in the nation in the production of African American graduates who go on to earn a Ph.D. in science and engineering. The University is committed to building on this success and increasing our impact and influence. Continued investment in facilities is paramount to our progress.

Two years ago, we were excited about the opening of the new Center for the Built Environment and Infrastructure Studies. Likewise, we are equally excited this year as we witness the expansion of our campus to the west with the erection of the new School of Business and Management Complex. An impressive structure, its location

on the northwest corner of Hillen Road and Argonne Drive will serve as an appropriate gateway from the west and also as an appropriate symbol of the prominence and stature of the programs that will be housed in the facility. Scheduled to open in the fall of 2015, the facility will include smart classrooms, a trading floor simulator room and demonstration space, none of which is possible in the existing facility because of the size and configuration of the building.

In addition, design is now underway for a new Behavioral and Social Sciences building, which will also be located on the West Campus. It will provide up-to-date teaching, research and demonstration space for the disciplines housed in that facility. It is important to note that the Behavioral and Social Sciences building was constructed in 1974 and never renovated. Many of the building systems are failing and in need of replacement. The replacement facility will include up-to-date teaching and research space to support behavioral and social sciences, including a Forensic Anthropology Lab, Human Factors Research Lab, Neuropsychology Lab, and a Vivarium. None of these labs exist on campus. We look forward with great anticipation to providing our Behavioral and Social Sciences students with modern and competitive learning environments and the infrastructure necessary to further enhance our research capacity.

Moreover, the old Soper Library is in the process of being demolished to provide a site for a new Student Support Services building. It has been



Center for the Built Environment and Infrastructure Studies (CBEIS)



Rendering of the new Earl G. Graves School of Business and Management Complex



vacant since 2007, when the new library opened. Demolition of the building will be completed by the end of 2014 and the site will be stabilized in early 2015.

GOVERNOR'S CAPITAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Provided is a summary of the Governor's FY 2015 capital budget recommendation.

PROJECT	PHASE	RECOMMENDATION
Campus-wide Utility Upgrades	Planning & Construction	\$ 6,070,000
New School of Business Complex & Connecting Bridge	Construction	\$ 3,000,000
Soper Demolition	Deconstruction	\$ 1,640,000
Athletic Facility Renovations	Planning & Construction	\$ 1,000,000
		\$11,710,000

A summary of each project follows.

Campus-wide Utility Upgrades (\$6,070,000)

For our facilities to be operational, the proper utility infrastructure must be in place. Based on a utility survey completed in 2000, many of our utilities are in poor condition and at the end of their lifespan. The requested funding will enable the completion of design and beginning of construction of Phase IV of this project. Most of the improvements funded in this phase will take place in the Morgan Commons and will also provide for connectivity to the West Campus.



Development of the West Campus

New School of Business and Management Complex & Connecting Bridge (\$3,000,000)

Construction of the building is now underway, and the facility is expected to open in the fall of 2015. The funds in this request will provide for the construction of the bridge that will link the West Campus to the main campus, providing a safe means of access across Hillen Road for our students.

Old Soper Library Demolition (\$1,640,000)

This funding was intended to provide the remainder of the funds for the demolition of the structure. However, bids came in lower than expected, and the additional funding is not needed for this project. The University, therefore, requests that the recommended funding to demolish the old Soper Library be used to initiate design of the new Student Support Services building as discussed below.

Athletic Renovations – Football & Track Complex (\$1,000,000)

Intercollegiate athletics play a vital role in the campus experience. Our athletic facilities have not kept pace with current trends and do not provide the amenities needed to properly support our athletic program. In addition, because of limited space, programs are scattered in different locations on campus. In the case of our football program, it is scattered in three locations, and collectively, there is not sufficient space in the three facilities to adequately support the program. This project would provide for the modernization, expansion and consolidation of space to properly support the program. The proposed facility would provide appropriately sized lockers, academic support, counseling, training and video (film analysis and editing) space.

REQUESTED ADDITIONS TO THE GOVERNOR'S REQUEST

Urgent! Need to Advance Student Support Services Building (\$1,640,000)

The rapidly declining condition of the old Montebello Hospital is causing us angst as, increasingly, systems are failing, resulting in portions of the building having to shut down, disrupting University operations. The severity of the weather this winter has wreaked havoc on the facility, which is nearly 60 years old and still has the original building systems in place. The pipes are corroded, which is slowing water circulation and subsequently causing the pipes to freeze. When the pipes thaw out, they overflow, and flooding occurs. During the first week of the spring semester, in the midst of registration, several areas (Admissions, Bursar, Restricted Fund Accounting, and Financial Aid) were all flooded and unable to maintain operations during this critical time. The facility has also experienced an increasing number of power outages. It is difficult to



Construction of the new Earl G. Graves School of Business and Management Complex



Montebello Complex
(Current Student Support Services Facility)

regulate temperature, and ventilation is poor because the air handling units are old and replacement parts are no longer available. Building occupants often complain about the extreme temperature variations. There are persistent water leaks as a result of deteriorating interior and exterior lines. We are increasingly concerned that we will be unable to maintain continued safe operations of the building. However, we have no alternative space in which to house critical functions in the event of a catastrophic system failure. The likelihood of that occurring is increasing by the day.

Beyond the safety and maintenance concerns, the ability to provide reasonable service is diminished because of the building's inadequacies. Improving customer service has been a top priority as the University seeks to maintain and increase its market share of the most talented students. This is extremely challenging when the facility is functionally inadequate and depressing! This facility is the first point of contact for prospective and new students and their parents, and also is the place where students must return to do business throughout their college career. The condition of the building marginalizes the other outstanding programs and services at the University.

The current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) provides funding to initiate design of the new Student Support Services building in FY 2016. However, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the longevity of that facility is nearing an end. We are, therefore, requesting that the remainder of the funds intended for the demolition of the old Soper Library (\$1,640,000) be redirected to initiate design of the new Student Support Services facility, so these critical student support functions can be moved out of Montebello by FY 2018.

New Behavioral and Social Sciences Building (\$5,000,000)

Design is now underway for the new Behavioral and Social Sciences building and should be completed by the end of 2014. Phase I of the design, site work and the foundation design is to be completed in October 2014. Construction was scheduled to start in February 2015. However, the Governor's CIP does not provide construction funding until FY 2016. Not only will this result in a delay in the completion of this much-needed project, it will also result in an increase in the cost as a result of inflation. The costs for this would then need to be added to the project. The University is, therefore, requesting that \$5.0 million of construction funds be added to the budget to allow construction to commence. These funds would be used to start the construction site work, utilities and possibly the foundations; it is just to bridge the gap until the next funding cycle.

Also, provided on the following pages are responses to the analyst's questions.

Your full support of the Governor's recommendations would be appreciated.

**Response To Issues And Recommendations Identified
in the
Department of Legislative Services' Analysis**



GO BOND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- 1. Approve \$3 million in general obligation bonds to construct the bridge and complete construction of the New School of Business Complex.**

Response: The University agrees with the recommendation.

- 2. Delete \$1.6 million for the demolition of Soper Library due to there being sufficient funds from prior authorizations available to complete the project.**

Response: The University agrees with the recommendation, but requests that this funding be redirected and authorized to begin design of a new Student Support Services facility on the site of the old Library. Further, we ask that \$78,760,000 of funding be pre-authorized to complete the project in fiscal years 2016 and 2017. As elaborated in the written testimony, a new facility is essential to maintain future student support services since the current infrastructure system is headed for a catastrophic failure. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) has this project scheduled to begin in FY 2016, but every additional year of delay is very concerning to the University.

- 3. Approve \$6.1 million in general obligation bonds to complete design and fund the first portion of the construction of Phase IV of the campuswide utilities upgrade.**

Response: The University agrees with the recommendation.

- 4. Restrict expenditures of funds until a Part I and Part II program plan is approved.**

Add the following language:

Athletic Facilities Renovation. Provide funds to design, construct, and equip renovations to Morgan State University athletic facilities, including the men's locker room area, provided that \$1,000,000 in general obligation bonds may not be encumbered or expended until a Part I and Part II program plan development document is submitted to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for review and approval, and DBM submits a letter to the budget committees on the approval of the program plans. The committees shall have 45 days to review and comment.



Response: The University agrees with the recommendation.

5. De-authorizes \$5 million related to construction of facilities for the women's softball team.

<u>RM00</u>	<u>Morgan State University (Baltimore City)</u>
<u>(B) Campuswide Site Improvements. Provided funds to design and construct site improvements</u>	<u>[6,321,000]</u>
	1,321,000

Response: The University agrees with the recommendation, but requests that the \$5M in funding be redirected and authorized for initial construction funding for the Behavioral and Social Sciences facility. Further, we ask that \$62,900,000 of funding be pre-authorized to complete the project in fiscal years 2016 and 2017. As indicated in the testimony, design is scheduled to be completed in October and construction can commence in February, if funding is made available. Otherwise, work will have to stop on the project, not only delaying the project, but potentially resulting in higher costs due to inflation.

It is important to note that once the University has reached an agreement with the City to lease or purchase the property (as referenced in the analysis), Morgan will be requesting funding for the completion of a women's softball field.

6. Approve amending language to include allowing funds to also be used for construction of the Soper Library Demolition.

Response: The University agrees with the recommendation.

7. Approve the pre-authorization of \$3.7 million in general obligation bond fund for fiscal 2016 to complete construction of Phase IV of the Campuswide Utilities Upgrade.

Response: The University agrees with the recommendation.





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