



MARYLAND HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
CAPITAL SUBCOMMITTEE

COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY
TESTIMONY PROVIDED BY PRESIDENT MORTIMER H. NEUFVILLE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014

Committee Chair Jones, members of the Committee, I am Mortimer Neufville, President of Coppin State University and I am pleased to come before you today in support of Coppin State University's capital budget. I am joined today by my Vice President for Administration and Finance, John Spinard and Associate Vice President for Capital Planning Dr. Maqbool Patel.

I want to begin by expressing my gratitude to Governor O'Malley and the Maryland General Assembly for your strong support of higher education in Maryland and Coppin State University (CSU).

In the interest of time, I will keep my remarks brief. The University is in agreement with the analysis provided by the Legislative Analyst and the recommendation for FY2015 funding for the Science and Technology Center Project. The University expects to maintain the new facility assuming CSU receives full operating funds from the State when the new STC facility comes on line in 2015.

Coppin is respectfully requesting consideration to move forward in the Capital Plan Schedule for the Percy Julian building renovation project. We requested partial planning funding (\$1.25M) in FY 2015 to renovate the building to accommodate the growth of CSU's College of Business (COB) which has been growing at a rate of approximately 20% for the past four semesters. The planning for the Percy Julian building renovation project was deferred three times and is now scheduled for FY2017.

Coppin's College of Business – Recent Enrollment Growth

	Spring 2012	Fall 2012	Spring 2013	Fall 2013	Spring 2014
**Headcount	247	317	301	408	455
Credit Hours	3,615	4,545	4,278	4,890	5,034

Renovating the Percy Julian building will enable Coppin to transform existing, outdated space to more suitable space which will accommodate academic programs for the College of Business consistent with the requirements in the University's 2013-2020 Strategic Plan. Again, I emphasize this important project was deferred three times in State's CIP Plan dating back to 2013, and is currently budgeted for FY 2017. We hope that serious consideration will be given to our request to move this project from FY 2017 up to FY 2015 which was the previous timeframe.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you and present our case for supporting Coppin's Capital budget. We share the State of Maryland and the University System of Maryland's commitment to providing our students with state-of-the-art educational facilities to enhance teaching and learning. We greatly appreciate your continued support of Coppin State University.

In conclusion, I have provided written testimony with detailed responses to the analyst's questions which I will not read but am happy to answer questions.

DLS QUESTIONS AND CSU RESPONSES

- 1. Given that CSU is now only 5 FTES above its fiscal 2000 enrollment and that the State has funded construction of three large facilities on campus, the President should comment on why CSU expects space deficiencies in fiscal 2022 in any category.**

One of the strengths of Maryland's approach to strategic facilities decision making is that it takes into account not only current needs but also projected needs. Importantly, Coppin is in a significant instructional delivery transition that decreases its reliance on traditional classrooms and enriches its instructional environments with comparable and competitive class labs. While the 2012 space inventory report shows surpluses in classroom and teaching lab spaces, projections to 2022 which take into account planned enrollment growth to 5,000 students by 2020 and changes in instructional delivery show that Coppin should be planning for deficits of classroom space and of teaching lab space.

Unquestionably Coppin has received generous capital funding for these transforming projects and has made remarkable strides. Missing in your analysis, however, is an accurate reflection of why this capital investment was required. In 2001, at the request of the Office of Civil Rights (OCR), a nationally appointed study team examined thoroughly Coppin State University. It's "Report of the Independent Study Team on the Revitalization of Coppin State College" identified the historic lack of capital development on the campus as a critical issue for not only Coppin but also the State. The report states:

"Coppin faces an array of facility-related deficiencies as compared with other institutions within the USM, historically black institutions in Maryland, and the College's peers. The average annual capital expenditure from fiscal year 1991 through fiscal year 2002 for all 12 public, four-year institutions in Maryland is over \$119 million, of which CSC averaged \$1,026,750, or less than 1 percent. Six of the College's 10 buildings require major renovations; three others should be razed. Additionally, 87 percent of its inventory (excluding the recently constructed residence hall) is more than 20 years old, compared to an average of 66 percent within the University System of Maryland. The College's infrastructure – water, sewer, electrical, security, communications, and fire protection – systems are antiquated and in need of replacement and/or modernization. Classroom, office, research, library, and physical-education space are severely deficient."¹

¹ Report of the Independent Study Team on the Revitalization of Coppin State College, September 2001, Page 7

The three new buildings: Health & Human Services (2008), Physical Education Complex (2010), and Science & Technology Center (2015), were constructed first and foremost to address significant physical deficiencies present on the campus and to provide CSU with safe and efficient state-of-the-art facilities comparable to other facilities in the University System. These new buildings began to address the severity of declined facility infrastructure. Only secondarily did they anticipate expanded enrollment. With the CSU's 2013-2020 Strategic Plan in place, CSU expects to increase enrollment in the next decade with its new and planned facilities, as well as with new academic programs to utilize the state-of-the-art resources we are now awarded.

The construction of new facilities enabled the University to house academic programs that historically lacked appropriate space required to fully support the needs of academic programs, including enrollment growth. As the programs grew, the spaces became increasingly inadequate, posing threats that could have impacted regional and specialized accreditation. The three new buildings facilitated necessary program growth, and contributed to the University meeting its overall mission.

Prior to the construction of the three new facilities, Coppin's academic programs were housed primarily in two buildings - Grace Jacobs (GJ), 37 years old; and Percy Julian (PJ), 47 years old. Neither of these two buildings provided appropriate space for teaching & learning, research or service. The spaces did not support, nor accommodate the functional needs of the curriculum. This had serious implications for maintaining standards required for accreditation, threatened program growth and the institution's ability to fulfill its mission with respect to appropriately trained graduates in the State of Maryland.

While Coppin had an ample amount of square footage within its buildings, the age of the facilities, layout and design of the spaces were inadequate for current and new academic programs. In most cases, the classrooms needed renovation and updated instructional equipment such as technology, and required repairs needed to fix flooding and inadequate temperature controls within the buildings.

College of Health Professions - School of Nursing

Prior to reorganization into the College of Health Professions and occupancy of the Health and Human Services Building (HHSB), the University had a nursing program that was located entirely on the 8th floor of the Grace Jacobs (GJ) Building. There were no clinical labs, storage space for nursing supplies, spaces for student advising or tutorial support, faculty exchange areas, and inadequate conference room space. The GJ also had problems with regular flooding, a heating and cooling systems that produced extreme temperatures resulting in space not utilized during certain times of the semester because of extreme weather.

The conditions of the building and the growing needs of the Nursing program were noted by accrediting bodies and increasingly, threatened the University's ability to maintain required standards. The University was also unable to facilitate the entry of additional students into the program in order to fill critical nursing shortage areas within the State. As a result, the University was able to lease temporary space on North Charles Street (25 minutes from the main campus) to accommodate the needs of the program. The leased space did provide spaces for faculty exchanges, observation rooms, and advisement space. However, the building largely remained over-crowded (faculty sharing offices and spaces with students) until the move into the HHSB was finalized.

College of Business

The College of Business has fast-growing programs in terms of enrollees and transfer students. These groups of students are central to Coppin's mission in terms of outreach initiatives. The growth within the College is a result of space provided as other programs shifted out of the GJ Building into the HHSB.

Prior to the move, the College housed an entertainment management program in one faculty member's office. This one office was inadequate for student engagement, student organizations, career development, practical experiences, and industry outreach. There are two concentrations in the Entertainment Management program: Music and Casino Gaming. While the program has been relocated into a new space, the high growth potential of both of these signature programs are curtailed to date, by the lack of adequate space. Even with the introduction of the technology required to support academic programs in these two media and technology-driven areas, growth cannot be supported without space.

Students and faculty continue to need space for presentations, workshops, small group study, tutorial sessions, and other activities that will support the academic mission of the program. For example, students under the age of 21 are unable to legally enter casinos for field experiences and internships. The practical experiences cannot occur in the campus environment without adequate space. The high growth potential of the music and casino programs, particularly in the mid-Atlantic region and the State of Maryland cannot be fully exploited due to instructional facility conditions.

Percy Julian Science and Arts Building

The Percy Julian Science Building currently houses the Natural Sciences programs which include Biology, Chemistry, and General Sciences. As in the past, the space is insufficient to support student engagement, program development, and industry outreach. The science building did not have adequate laboratory space that meets safety standards, insufficient and inadequate storage space for lab equipment and supplies. Major problems with flooding, heating and cooling continue to be problems along with the lack of space for faculty and student research. The square footage in this building did not only meet programmatic needs such as an inability to safely house scientific equipment, but posed safety threats – lack of working showers and appropriate emergency exits in the case of chemical spills and fire emergencies. The opening of the new Science and Technology Center is expected to resolve these issues and facilitate growth in the University's STEM program.

In conclusion, both the additions of HHSB and PEC to the Coppin campus were the consequence of the need to replace substantially inadequate facilities. Similarly the construction of the Science and Technology Center ("STC") is another facility that provides Coppin with basic science facilities available at its sister institutions but not possible within the existing Julian Arts and Sciences building. The University, the System, and the State all recognize that for Coppin to be competitive it must have adequate science facilities, like its sister USM institutions, and the Science and Technology Center will do that. Importantly, the construction of STC will allow the University to renovate Julian Arts and Sciences for its College of Business which has undergone program revitalization and is well positioned for growth. Appropriate program facilities, not possible within the Grace Jacobs Office Classroom Building where the College currently resides in cramped quarters, will be essential to securing the College's strong potential.

2. The President should comment on how CSU will fill positions related to STC and, given current student enrollment, what capacity STC will be operating at when opened.

CSU has requested full operating funds to accommodate the new STC and within that request there are 20 FTE positions for maintenance, custodial, information technology, and security. With these support functions for the building, CSU will operate STC at full capacity given our current student enrollment and the demonstrated demand for science instruction for disciplines like nursing. Again this building not only addresses space deficiencies but countless other infrastructure needs that currently exists on the campus. The University expects to maintain the new facility from the CSU’s requested operating funds, received from the State when a new facility comes on line.

3. Given that PJSAB is not mentioned as a priority in CSU’s Special Review Committee Report and that the campus is severely under enrolled, the President should comment on why PJSAB’s NASF should be expanded.

The Percy Julian Science building has never functioned very well for its intended purpose and, with the pending completion of the (already funded) Science and Technology Center, we hope to be able to renovate this otherwise sturdy building for the College of Business. The proposed facility should be renovated to support the academic program, building code requirements and a growing enrollment. The College of Business has fast-growing programs in terms of enrollees and transfer students. There has been consistent growth in the College of Business since spring 2012, see below.

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The project underscores Coppin’s commitment to the academic disciplines and professional practice associated with the College of Business; extends the University’s covenant to the community through expanded opportunities to serve the business, economic development and educational needs of the area; serves as a state-wide resource in the development, research and training of the best urban educational practices in basic, special, and adult education; reflect identifiable rationales for occupant and use relationships; and supports and enhance the quality of academic life for students, faculty, and staff.