

CAPITAL BUDGET HEARING FISCAL YEAR 2011

Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Testimony by President Reginald S. Avery, Ph.D.

March 16, 2010

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I am Reginald S. Avery, President of Coppin State University. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Governor's FY2011 Capital Budget Request for Coppin State University. The University is in agreement with the recommendation provided by the Legislative Analyst for the FY2011 Science and Technology Center Project, and we express our deep appreciation for the recommendation.

It is important to note that enhancement of capital funding is essential for Coppin's revitalization and its deferred development as stated in the September 2001 Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Report of the Independent Study Team on the Revitalization of Coppin. The University's Office of Capital Planning has done a remarkable job in this regard. The FY2011 capital projects are in compliance with the OCR report and part of the Facilities Master Plan approved by the University System of Maryland's Board of Regents. Timely infusion of capital funds and project completion will positively impact the University's mission and its future ability to expand academic offerings and support services provided to students, and help to bring the University more fully into the 21st century.

With your assistance and support, the unveiling of two new state-of-the-art facilities within the last two years has enhanced our campus environment and have become symbols of excellence for the University. Health and Human Services Building (HHSB), a state-of-the-art academic facility became operational in the fall of 2008 and makes a strong welcoming statement; identifying University's mission of high quality undergraduate and graduate education as well as providing hands on clinical and community outreach services to the surrounding communities.

The Physical Education Complex is a first-rate facility that honors CSU's sporting legacy while creating a catalyst to develop a strong and healthy community. This facility will offer programs that not only focus on the advancement of our student-athletes training, but also provide rich academic offerings and a full calendar of events and activities. Our goal is to allow the benefits of this facility to extend far beyond the boundaries of campus as a vessel of communicating healthier living.

The planned Science and Technology Center will also have several positive effects for the University including enhanced educational experiences for students and help provide our students the academic educational experiences comparable to those provided at many other colleges and universities in Maryland. This new facility will assist the University in producing graduates to advance the State's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) initiative. This facility will provide our students state-of-the-art educational facilities that will enhance teaching and learning and lead to increased student persistence through graduation.

The science programs are currently housed in the Percy Julian Arts and Science building (PJSAB). A complete facility functionality assessment was prepared by an independent consultant firm, Richter Cornbrooks Gribble (RCG) in February 2004. The consultants reported that the existing laboratories are undersized and poorly designed creating hazardous and inefficient teaching environments. The report compared science facilities at Frostburg and Salisbury Universities and the national guidelines for lab planning and found the PJSAB does not offer a science facility that is equal or meets current standards for science education laboratories. The new STC will provide a state of the art technology based learning environment; which will build an academic identity for Coppin's commitment to the academic disciplines and professional practices associated with science and technology. The project will also help support the projected growth of the University and help ease projected deficits in classroom, lab and office space. The new facility will provide science and technology facilities that are comparable to other institutions in the University System of Maryland as recommended by the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Report of the Independent Study Team in September 2001, prepared for the revitalization of Coppin.

The University will be in a better position to execute the mandates of our mission to meet the emerging educational and career opportunities in granting disciplines while addressing many critical facility deficiencies in its academic environment. Students will have competitive access to learning environments crucial for their academic and professional careers.

Part of my vision is to continue to create a 'safe and attractive environment' both on and around campus as a means of enhancing persistence through graduation. We believe that these new facilities (Health and Human Services, Physical Education Complex) and the planned Science and Technology Center will have several positive effects for the University including: increased enrollment, student retention and graduation rates will enhance educational experiences for students and faculty and staff, and help provide our students the physical educational experiences comparable to those provided at many other colleges and universities in Maryland. In support of our efforts, we are willing to make various budgetary tradeoffs in various areas, e.g., discretionary expenses and staff support.

We share with the State of Maryland and the University of Maryland System a commitment to provide our students state of the art educational facilities to enhance teaching and learning and greatly appreciate your continued support of Coppin State University.



New Science & Technology Center (STC):

New Science and Technology Center (STC) 74,185 NASF/134,900 GSF will be constructed to house science related disciplines including natural sciences, biology, physics, chemistry, general sciences, environmental sciences, preparing students to enter professional schools in dentistry, pharmacy, and medicine or to pursue careers in industry of science and technology. STC will also include new academic space to support mathematics, computer science programs. This building will provide focus on the University’s highest quality educational mission to students, faculty, staff, and the community; providing state of the art classrooms, lecture halls, computer labs, science labs, research areas, conference areas, multidisciplinary workshops, technical support spaces, office spaces, clinical & community outreach facilities, and other support services traditional to academic science and technology buildings.

The new facility will be located on the Southside of North Avenue adjacent to the new Health and Human Services Building. To date, the University has completed phase I, II, and III title reports and boundary surveys and made significant progress in various stages of the land acquisition process. The current FY2011 request includes the final phase of acquisition funds and a portion of planning funds.

The program for the new Science and Technology Center has been approved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

FY2011 Request: \$6,497,000.00 (Acquisition & Planning)

