

Coppin State University

CAPITAL BUDGET HEARING FISCAL YEAR 2013

Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee

March 15, 2012

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



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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 FY2013 Capital Budget Request for Coppin State University. The University is in agreement with the analysis provided by the Legislative Analyst for the FY2013 Science and Technology Center Project, and we express our deep appreciation for the recommendations.

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. Also, as stated in the 2011 Coppin Study, Coppin's mission is unique, considerable progress has been made but much remains to be done. The University's Office of Capital Planning has done a remarkable job in this regard. The FY2013 capital project complies with the updated Facilities Master Plan approved by the University System of Maryland, 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.

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 the 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.

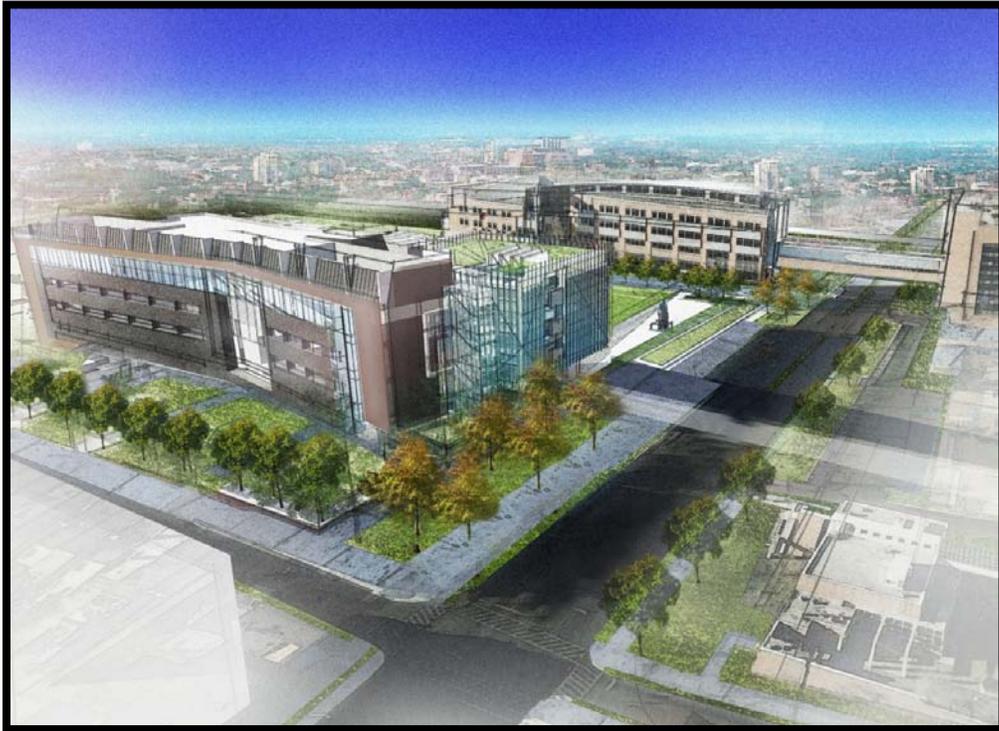
New Science & Technology Center (STC):

New Science and Technology Center (STC) 73,554 NASF/150,332 GSF will be constructed to house science related disciplines including natural sciences, biology, physics, chemistry, and general sciences to prepare 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 and 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, and other support services traditional to academic science and technology buildings. The University is working closely with UMB Service Center and Department of Budget & Management (DBM) to assure the STC project design, construction and building efficiency stays within the guidelines approved by DBM.

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. Coppin 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. The new facility will be located on the Southside of North Avenue adjacent to the new Health and Human Services Building. To date, Coppin is on track with the property acquisitions. We own 156 properties, 14 pending settlements, and 6 pending BPW approval with a remaining 34 properties to be acquired. Overall, the property acquisition project is on schedule. The design-construction documents are also progressing very well; 50% construction documents has been completed, and 100% CDs are scheduled to be completed by summer to begin STC construction fall 2012. The current FY2013 request includes the final phase of acquisition/planning funds and a portion of construction funds. This request also pre-authorizes \$47,050,000.00 for the STC in 2013 session, which is needed to complete the construction funding in order to obtain BPW approval. The program for the new Science and Technology Center has been approved by DBM.

FY2013 Request: \$38,775,000.00 (Planning & Construction)

New Science & Technology Center





COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

2500 WEST NORTH AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21216

* Accessible Parking on all lots

