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Mickey L. Burnim, President

CAPITAL BUDGET
TESTIMONY
BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY
FY 2012



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Bowie State University
FY 2012
Capital Budget Testimony

March 2011
Presented by Mickey L. Burnim, President

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Bowie State University, I am pleased to have this opportunity to testify in support of the Governor's capital budget proposal for FY 2012. We are grateful for the Governor's commitment to higher education and for the continuing support you and your colleagues in the General Assembly have demonstrated.

We appreciate the recommendation from the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) to approve continued funding for our **Campuswide Site Improvements** project. I will provide a brief context for the Campuswide Site Improvement Project, an update on the Fine and Performing Arts building and discuss some of our future capital needs.

Campuswide Site Improvements

This project is part of BSU's continued efforts to improve its campus and to replace deteriorating portions of the campus infrastructure.

We plan to complete this project by replacing deteriorating sidewalks and enhancing campus safety and security with more adequate lighting. The project is currently in design with construction scheduled to begin in FY2012.

This project includes the following components:

- Create a pedestrian connection between the Center for Business and Graduate Studies and the Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) Station providing individuals with disabilities access to the station.
- Create a pedestrian connection between the new Fine and Performing Arts Building (currently under construction) and Henry Circle.
- Modify the main entrance diverting north and south bound traffic from Route 197 to Jericho Park Road to reduce traffic congestion, including new pedestrian crosswalks, a new campus directory, signage, parking, and landscaping.

- Construct improvements to Henry Circle by installing and repairing lights, and installing pavers to link Robinson Hall, the Computer Science Building, and the library. This component provides curbs for individuals with disabilities.
- Construct improvements to various campus road surfaces and parking lots. Parking Lot N, which is in front of Robinson Hall, will be resurfaced in Phase I. The project will include ADA improvements to existing parking lots and the replacement of concrete curbs that have deteriorated.

We greatly appreciate the Governor's commitment to funding this project and DLS' recommendation to approve it.

Fine and Performing Arts Building – Update

The Fine and Performing Arts building is nearing completion. Construction on the facility is expected to finish by Fall 2011. We expect to occupy the building in time to start the Spring 2012 semester.

BSU wishes to express our sincere appreciation to the Governor for the continued support of this project allowing us to bring it to fruition. As you will note due to the outstanding project management in addition to favorable market conditions we were able to complete this project for significantly less than the original budget forecasts thereby releasing nearly \$9 million back to the state for use on other capital projects.

The Next Five Years and Beyond

The five-year CIP provides planning funds for a new **Natural Sciences Building**, and for the renovation of our existing science facility. Based on recommendations in our updated Facilities Master Plan and the revisions being incorporated into the revised facilities program for this project BSU expects the next CIP cycle's request reflect a funding request for a new Natural Sciences Building with capacity to replace the current facility. This project is a major priority for us and is an essential element of our plans for growth.

The new facility will provide critical instruction space for Biology, Chemistry and Physics, as well as state-of-the-art research and laboratory space. The current Crawford Science Building has inadequate classrooms and laboratories and is the major impediment to our ability to prepare scientists and science teachers and make any meaningful contribution to the STEM initiative. This new building is long-overdue and will better align our academic focus with physical capacity.

Though completion of the Fine & Performing Arts Center will significantly improve the ability to deliver our visual arts, dance, theater, and music programs, it will still leave challenges for us in the Humanities area. This area includes our Departments of Communications, English and Modern Languages, and History and Government. Our plan is to replace the Martin Luther King building in order to meet current needs and future growth. The new **Humanities** facility will also include the University's Honors program, media operations, and production space for our radio and television stations.

Another critical element to our plans for growth is the expansion of our **Center for Learning and Technology** which houses the Colleges of Education and Nursing. These two programs have historically been and continue to be among the strongest programs for the University. The current space is inadequate and will not support even modest growth in these two areas which are critical to workforce development in our state. The expected demand for these programs is more than the number we can support in the current facility. Similarly, we are enhancing our education program and expect it to grow substantially over the next ten years. The expansion of the CLT building in conjunction with the New Natural Science building will help us accommodate growth while providing state-of-the-art instructional facilities for the education of the region's future teachers and nurses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments about Bowie State University's capital projects and our plans for the future. Our growth and competitiveness depend greatly upon our ability to enhance our facilities. I urge your full support of the Governor's FY 2012 capital budget.