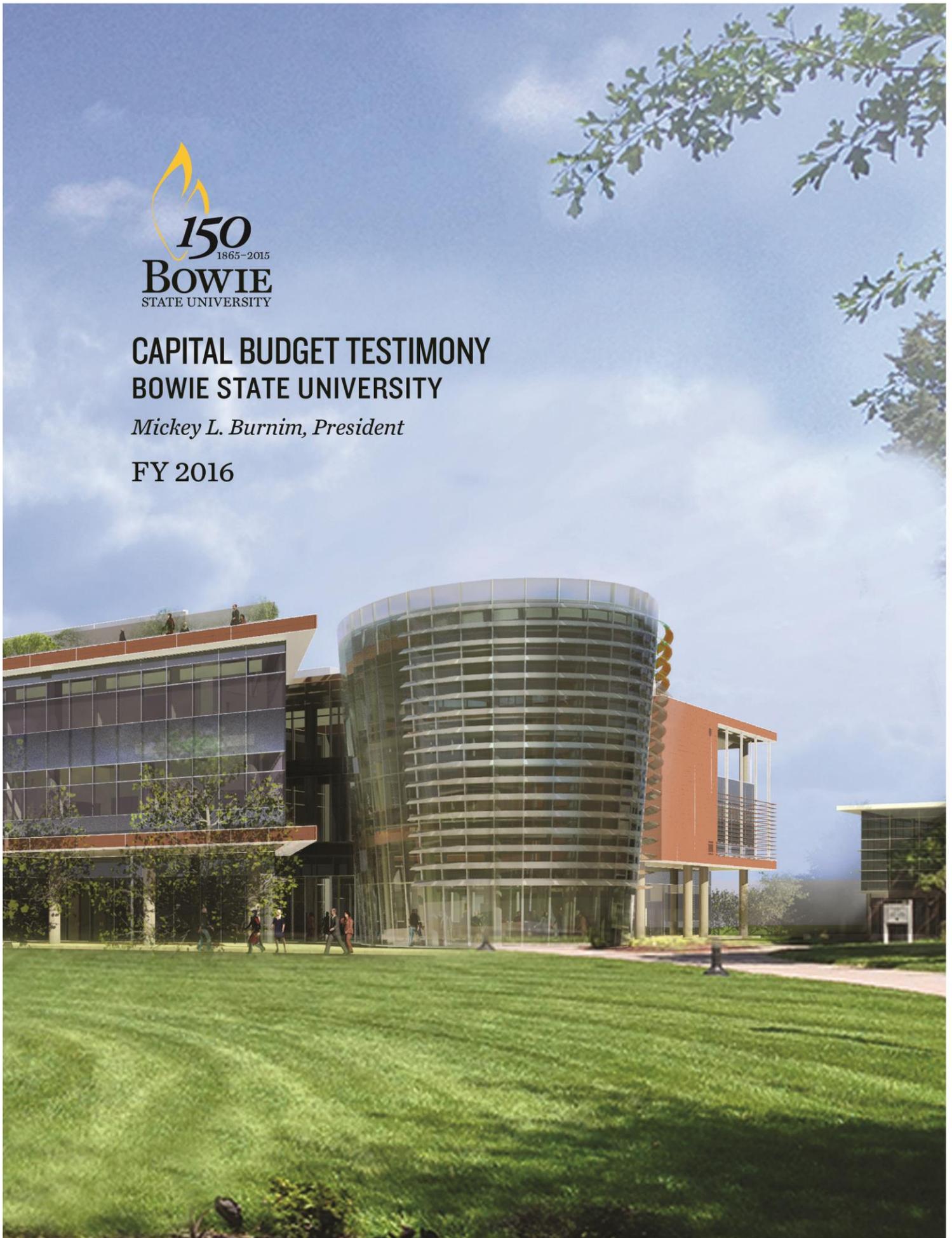




**CAPITAL BUDGET TESTIMONY
BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY**

Mickey L. Burnim, President

FY 2016



Bowie State University
FY 2016 Capital Budget Testimony
Presented by Mickey L. Burnim, Ph.D., President

March 2015

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 2016. We are grateful for the Governor's commitment to higher education and for the continuing support from members of the General Assembly.

When I came to Bowie State University nearly nine years ago, it was clear to me that in order for the university to be competitive in attracting outstanding students and faculty, and to meet the growing workforce needs in STEM and nursing, we would have to replace the current Crawford Science Building. That has been a top priority for us. I am delighted that the Governor has included in the proposed FY 16 capital budget the second phase of funding for construction of a new Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Nursing (CNSMN). Our faculty has been actively involved in the planning for this new space and we are all very excited to begin construction this year, starting with the demolition of the former Student Center.

This new Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Nursing will be approximately 148,995 gross square feet and will house the Departments of Natural Science, Nursing and Mathematics. This new space will replace the inadequate teaching classrooms and laboratories in the Crawford Science Building and will provide state-of-the-art research and instructional laboratories, classrooms and office space for faculty and staff. In addition, we will be able to accommodate our expanding nursing program with more classrooms and laboratories for all undergraduate students who must meet general education science requirements.

We cannot overstate the importance and timeliness of this facility. It is essential to the university's efforts to attract and retain highly qualified STEM faculty and recruit students interested in STEM. The current facility is woefully inadequate for 21st century teaching and learning; indeed, middle and high school students who tour the space will no doubt have experienced far better quality instructional spaces in their schools. We simply cannot be competitive without a state-of-the-art facility. This new center is long overdue.



The new facility will support strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing teaching in the basic sciences as well as faculty and student research that is at the cutting edge of scientific inquiry. For example, Bowie State has housed one of the few protein crystallography laboratories in the country since 1997. Recently, this laboratory has become a prime collaborator with the National Cancer Institute (NCI), which has allowed our faculty and students to participate in groundbreaking, award-winning research at NCI. While our current laboratory spaces are exceedingly cramped, our enterprising faculty actively pursue research funding that is providing opportunities for our students to participate in a range



of collaborative research experiences. Projects like genomic research aimed at enhancing plant diversity and synthesis of structurally modified agents for intelligent drug design are just two of our many currently active research programs.

This new facility will also foster the kind of collaborations needed to enhance our Bioinformatics program, which brings together mathematics and other computational disciplines to analyze biological data.

Collaborations such as this are facilitated by collocating Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Nursing in one building with shared facilities, resources and programs. The new Center will support and catalyze the increasing interdependence of mathematics and natural sciences disciplines.



Programmatic connections between nursing and the natural sciences are important in the first two years of study when nursing students are required to take a heavy load of science and laboratory

coursework, and will maximize efficiency in the use of shared lecture and open laboratory space between all three programs. The nursing program has long outgrown its current space such that we must limit the number of students we admit. In order for us to continue producing graduates in this critical workforce shortage area, we simply must expand our facilities. The new center will enable the university to meet its goal of producing highly skilled, workforce- and teaching-force-ready graduates in the scientific, mathematical, engineering, technological, and professional fields by addressing the current and projected shortfalls in specialized laboratory space. It will also provide needed classroom, and academic support space for the Departments of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Nursing.

The university fully acknowledges the project cost of approximately \$104 million and has worked diligently with the Service Center at the University of Maryland, College Park, the design team and construction team to reduce the expense required to construct this facility. We have identified over \$7.4 million in “value

engineering” to reduce costs and have worked with the University System of Maryland (USM) to fund \$2 million of the cost of the project from our existing budget, reducing the state’s commitment to approximately \$102 million.

The new Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Nursing will help us continue the transformation of our campus. The five-year CIP provides for continued construction and equipment funding to complete the Center for Natural Science, Mathematics and Nursing. The state’s investment in this premier facility is critically important. We sincerely appreciate the Governor’s commitment to this project and DLS’ recommendation to approve it.

Our next challenge is in the humanities area. This area includes our Departments of Communications, English and Modern Languages, and History and Government. Our Facilities Master Plan calls for replacement of the Martin Luther King Building in order to meet current needs and



support 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. Although not included in the Governor’s current CIP, this facility is quite critical for the university. The university’s future CIP submissions will also include requests to renovate the Thurgood Marshall Library, the Henry Administration Building, and James Physical Education Complex.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments about Bowie State University’s capital priorities. Our growth and competitiveness depend greatly upon our ability to provide state-of-the-art teaching and learning spaces for upon our upon our ability to provide state-of-the-art teaching and learning spaces for faculty and students. I urge your full support of the Governor’s FY 2016 capital budget.

Response to DLS' Analysis

The President and USM Cost Center director should comment on why the project was not delayed to allow for redesign or a new A/E firm to modify the project to fit within the limits of State support.

President's Response:

The project was in the design development stage when the funding shortfall was determined. To redesign the project at that point would have potentially added several million dollars in additional design costs for what would ultimately be a substandard facility that would not have met the needs of the university, nor the intent of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) approved facilities program. The A/E for this project was selected through a competitive process approved by USM for procuring professional services. Terminating the contract of the A/E during the design development stage would have subjected the university to significant penalties, delays and added costs. Any design fees already expended would have been forfeited as work had already been completed in good faith.

Service Center Response:

The Service Center followed the proper procedures required for this type of situation. When the Design Development (DD) phase estimate was received indicating the project was over the original budget, the design was put on hold (i.e. the A/E was not authorized to proceed to the next design phase) until the cost overrun was resolved. The designer and the CM were required to identify Value Engineering (VE) items and cost saving measures. Many options were presented. BSU was concerned about additional cuts to the program that would reduce the quality of the building or the design given its location on campus. BSU opted for accepting a number of VE items and pursuing additional funds to maintain the building as programmed. The Service Center notified USM and DBM of the need for additional funds to continue with design. After review of the situation, USM agreed to include the request for additional funds in the FY 15 CIP. The design was allowed to proceed that point (April 30, 2014). This is the

reason the project is 6 months behind schedule. The total project cost has been maintained within the revised budget since the end of the DD phase. The project square footage has always been in compliance with the program.

Regarding the second part of the question, the Service Center could have required the A/E to redesign the project to meet the original budget, but such building would not have met the needs and expectations of the institution.

The President should comment on whether the cost overrun for NSC was preventable and why BSU's past three State-funded projects have come in significantly over budget.

President's Response:

The university has worked diligently along with the designers, the Service Center and the construction manager to design and construct a facility that meets the needs of the university as detailed in its facilities program. This facilities program was approved by DBM. Costs are always a concern during measures to contain costs without making compromises that would result in an inferior facility that would not meet the current and future needs of the university.

Regarding past state-funded projects, the cost increases for the Center for Business and Graduate Studies were due to economic and market conditions. Until bidding occurred, all estimates were within budget. At the time of the bidding, there was a significant swing in the economy which led to higher than expected bid prices. The Fine and Performing Arts Center was actually *under* budget, again due to market conditions. Indeed, the university returned to the state over \$5 million as a result of receiving very favorable bids for this project as well as our Campus-wide Site Improvements project. The very nature of a protracted construction process suggests that we must react to the market conditions -- we receive lower than expected bids sometimes and higher than expected bids at other times. While we obviously cannot control the market, we do our best to work within budget, even value-engineering where necessary, but always with the goal of providing the best teaching and learning spaces for our students.



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