



Maryland Independent College and University Association

140 SOUTH STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

PHONE: 410-269-0306
FAX: 410-269-5905
www.micua.org

House Appropriations Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

March 8, 2017

Testimony by

Tina M. Bjarekull, President

Maryland Independent College and University Association

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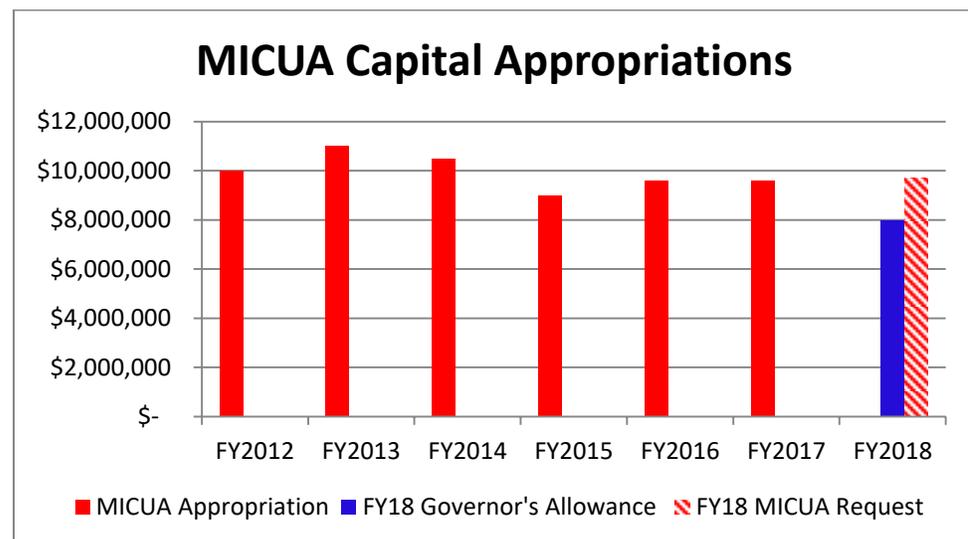
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of three capital construction and renovation projects at MICUA institutions. The Governor's fiscal 2018 capital budget provides \$8 million for these three projects. **MICUA respectfully requests \$9.7 million to allow these projects to move forward.** These three projects are: Goucher College's new science building; McDaniel College's renovation of the Gill Physical Education Learning Center; and St. John's College's renovation of McDowell Hall. These projects are well-aligned with the goals identified in the current *Maryland State Plan for Postsecondary Education* and support important local initiatives in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, and Carroll County. The State's investment in these projects will leverage more than \$30 million in private resources and support almost 300 jobs, contributing to Maryland's economic vitality.

The MICUA Capital Grant Program has been funded between \$9 million and \$11 million for the past several years, as shown in the chart below. Given our recent funding history and the capital needs of our campuses, we believe that MICUA's fiscal 2018 capital request of \$9.7 million is reasonable.



Goucher College requests \$4 million to design and construct a new science building to create modern laboratory spaces and interactive learning facilities for undergraduate and graduate teaching and research in the sciences. The building will be adjacent to the College's Hoffberger Science Building, which has obsolete and functionally inadequate classroom and lab spaces for the sciences. Hoffberger was built in phases between 1953 and 1981; is not ADA compliant; does not have ventilation required to perform more than basic experiments; and does not have appropriate facilities for the storage of chemicals. The total cost of the project is \$27.4 million.

McDaniel College requests \$3 million to renovate, excavate, and construct portions of the Gill Physical Education Learning Center (GPELC). The project will accommodate dramatic student enrollment growth in the College's Exercise Sciences and Physical Education (EPE) program. The project will create new classrooms and labs in the lower level and mezzanine areas of the building, converting unused and functionally inadequate space into highly functional and flexible academic space. In addition, it will create instructional space for movement-based lab activities through adding a partition in the gymnasium. The total cost of the project is \$6.6 million.

St. John's College requests \$2.7 million to renovate McDowell Hall, which serves as the academic center of the College and houses classrooms and the Great Hall, which is used for convocations, lectures, musical and theatrical productions, and other campus events. McDowell was built in 1744 and last renovated in 1989. This historic building was originally constructed to serve as the Provisional Governor's mansion. The renovation involves all floors of the building to address ADA access and to replace the electrical and technology systems, heating and cooling systems, restrooms, plumbing, elevator, and flooring. The total cost of the project is \$5.9 million.

Each year, the MICUA Capital Projects Committee reviews all capital budget requests proposed by its member institutions to determine project readiness, the institution's ability to meet the State's matching requirement, and overall compliance with State and MICUA rules. Four member institutions submitted fiscal 2018 capital grant requests. After careful review, the Committee recommended that the MICUA Board of Trustees endorse three capital projects.

All three capital projects endorsed by the MICUA Board are directly related to the academic missions of the individual institutions and support the construction or renovation of buildings used for instruction and research. Further, these projects augment the State's higher education agenda, meet eligibility requirements established by the Department of Budget and Management, and comply with MICUA's more stringent criteria for endorsement.

Maryland's independent colleges and universities require these capital investments to accommodate increased student enrollment, address workforce needs, attract research dollars, support a vibrant economy, and provide choice and opportunity for Maryland's citizens. The State's partnership with its independent colleges and universities has proven to be highly effective and efficient.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the MICUA Capital Grant Program. We sincerely appreciate our partnership with the State of Maryland and value your leadership.



Testimony to the House Appropriations Committee, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Lynne P. Lochte, Vice President Finance & Administration

March 8, 2017

On behalf of Goucher College, thank you for recognizing that capital support for the state's independent colleges and universities is a wise investment that benefits all of Maryland. We are very grateful for the Maryland General Assembly's steadfast support of the MICUA capital grant program.

Goucher College's FY2018 request of \$4 million is for a capital project to build a new science building on campus that contains modern lab spaces and interactive learning facilities for undergraduate and graduate teaching and research within the context of integrative education. The building will be adjacent to the Hoffberger Science facility, originally constructed in phases between 1953 and 1981, and will house biology, chemistry, biochemistry, molecular biology, and environmental studies majors.

Home to 1,480 undergraduate and 1,200 graduate students and named one of the 10 most innovative colleges in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*, Goucher College is a selective private, coed, liberal arts college dedicated to providing a multidisciplinary, international education and preparing students for the jobs of the future.

The safety of the students in the learning environment is of utmost importance to the college. In its current state, the 64-year-old facility is functionally inadequate, lacking enough floor-to-floor height to accommodate the ventilation needs for science lab experiments. Physical plant costs created by the inefficiency of the hoods and the equipment within the labs waste precious environmental and human capital resources and result in overall higher operating expenses. The labs are not ADA compliant, do not have appropriate facilities for the storage of chemicals, and are lacking compared to the science facilities of the high schools our prospective students attend.

Estimated to cost \$27.4 million, this 59,000 GSF science building will modernize the science laboratory spaces, allowing expansion of science programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels to better serve the needs of Maryland citizens. The new labs will create the ability to establish new bachelor of science programs in majors that don't exist today, such as equine sciences. The new labs will create laboratory benches and experimentation areas that are consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), expanding access to students that we are currently not able to serve while improving instruction in the sciences and creating interdisciplinary learning and problem solving opportunities for all students.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of our request for a \$4 million MICUA capital grant to assist in the building of a new science building that contains modern lab spaces and interactive learning facilities at Goucher College.



2 College Hill
Westminster, MD 21157-4390
410-848-7000
410-876-2055
www.mcdaniel.edu

**Testimony to the House Appropriations Committee, Capital Budget Subcommittee
W. Thomas Phizacklea, Vice President of Administration and Finance
March 8, 2017**

On behalf of McDaniel College, thank you for investing in the infrastructure of Maryland's independent colleges and universities. We are grateful for Maryland General Assembly's support of the MICUA capital grant program, which in turn accommodates enrollment growth and addresses workforce needs in our state.

With the endorsement of MICUA, McDaniel College seeks a state matching grant of \$3 million for FY 2018 to renovate the Gill Physical Education Learning Center (GPELC). The GPELC is a cornerstone of the McDaniel College campus and houses Exercise Science and Physical Education (EPE), our largest and fastest growing undergraduate major which increased 157 percent between 2008 and 2015. In the next five years the program is expected to graduate 1,000 students. In addition, the GPELC provides instruction for a thriving master's program in the school of Graduate and Professional Studies. Combined, over 28 percent of McDaniel's total student body use the GPELC for classwork toward their degrees.

The GPELC was built in two stages, 45 years apart. The original gymnasium (Old Gill) was built in 1939 with the generous support of its namesake, Robert J. Gill. The second phase, which completed the current facility, opened in 1984. With the exception of one existing laboratory in the facility, all EPE programs currently share space with athletics and recreation. Additionally, the EPE academic program growth has resulted in a shortage of spaces that are properly outfitted and suitable for learning and research. EPE curriculum includes lab work as a central feature, requiring students to frequently travel back and forth between labs and more traditional classroom environments. Hence, it is essential that we have classrooms and laboratories in close proximity, in addition to having more of each to accommodate demand.

Estimated to cost \$6.6 million, the proposed project will create 9,903 NASF in new academic spaces, converting functionally inadequate space into highly efficient and flexible academic classrooms and laboratories for the EPE program. The proposed project will excavate, transform and leverage existing, but underutilized, spaces within the GPELC and turn them into dedicated, functional academic program spaces to the extent technically feasible.

The EPE program turns out high-quality, pre-allied health students, trainers and teachers at both the graduate and undergraduate level. The program has a long history of enhancing the quality of education in the state. This project will not only improve the quality of the educational process, but also will enable McDaniel College to increase its contribution to the pipeline of new allied health workers for the State of Maryland. According to the Bureau of Labor's 2015 Occupational Outlook Handbook, occupational therapists and physical therapists are the second and third fastest-growing occupations in the nation, and 8 of the top 12 occupations fall under the allied health umbrella.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of our request for a \$3 million MICUA capital grant to assist the renovation of McDaniel College's Gill Physical Education Learning Center.



**Joseph W. Smolskis, Treasurer
March 8, 2017**

St. John's is unique in American higher education because of its academic program. At St. John's, there are no textbooks, lectures, or written exams. Students read the original texts in all disciplines, all classes are discussions, and students are evaluated on their classroom participation and written papers. Classes are small, and the faculty to student ratio is one to eight. Providing such a distinctive program, where learning is discussion-based and faculty prompt discussion rather than passing along facts, requires an appropriate environment for learning.

Since 1784, historic McDowell Hall has been the center of the St. John's classroom experience. Each of its classrooms is designed to fit up to 22 people around a single table, allowing for just the type of learning experience that St. John's program of study requires, where most classes have between 13 and 15 students.

The building is an important part of the college's outreach to the broader community. The Great Hall is a popular space made available to the public for occasional lectures and regular musical and theatrical productions. The Great Hall and classrooms are used for community programs, classes for adults from the local community, and gatherings of City, County, and State officials.

The building, originally constructed in 1744 and last renovated in 1989, is in need of further renovation. The project for which we are requesting a capital grant will replace McDowell's electrical and technology systems, heating and cooling systems, restrooms, plumbing, elevator, and flooring, all of which are in disrepair and at the ends of their useful lives. The project also includes renovations to the classroom spaces to improve lighting and acoustics. These renovations are needed to maintain and enhance the building as an academic classroom and assembly area, while preserving its historic character.

McDowell Hall's continued use as the center of the academic program is important in attracting new students and in maintaining a relationship with former students. Failure to keep the building operating will severely impact the college's ability to meet its mission. If the building is not maintained properly, St. John's will have difficulty attracting new students and continuing a strong relationship with its alumni base. Both groups contribute a significant amount of out-of-state dollars to the Maryland economy.

A liberal arts college with a national reputation in the heart of Annapolis serves the State's interest in promoting a welcoming diversity of independent educational opportunities and in bringing jobs and tuition dollars to Maryland, as well as travel and tourism dollars associated with parent visits, prospective student visits, and many public events held at St. John's.

St. John's requests support for a \$2.7 million capital improvement grant to undertake the McDowell renovation. The \$5.97 project will be further supported with \$3.3 million from private donations. The project is expected to begin in June 2017 and to be completed by November 2017.

We are grateful for the State's past support, which has proved vital to the success of the College. We thank you for your consideration of this project.