

University of Baltimore – FY 2018 Capital Budget Testimony

By Kurt L. Schmoke, President

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and members of the Subcommittee. On behalf of the University of Baltimore's administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni, I am pleased to update you today on the University's capital project: the renovation of the Langsdale Library building.

The Governor's FY 2018 capital budget proposal includes \$3.75 million in construction funds to complete the renovation of the University's 50-year-old library. The FY 2018 funding will allow both the construction process to stay on schedule and UB to procure the necessary furniture and equipment to complete the renovation by December 2017. The FY 2018 funds are the last installment of state funding for this project, totaling \$17.5 million in state planning, construction and equipment funds for the renovation of the library building. UB has also raised private funds toward the renovation project.

UB's Langsdale Library building was constructed in 1965 and had never been renovated in any significant manner. Virtually all building systems were in need of replacement or significant upgrading, and many elements did not meet current Americans with Disabilities Act standards and fire-suppression codes, putting occupants and collections at risk. The renovation funds will support the creation of a facility that is fully compliant with ADA standards; features a reconfigured space plan with improved mechanical, fire-suppression, plumbing and electrical systems, in addition to cosmetic enhancements; achieves LEED Silver certification; and provides natural light and vertical connectivity that is consistent with the quality of our recent capital projects.

Library services have been temporarily relocated to the University's H. Mebane Turner Learning Commons building in light of the renovation. While this space meets the library's most basic facility needs in the short term, the campus community is anxiously looking forward to the opening of the newly renovated building on Maryland Avenue. We anticipate that the new library building will help revitalize the Oliver Street corridor and continue the vibrant resurgence of midtown Baltimore. It will also serve as the intellectual heart of the institution—a place where students, faculty and the community can work individually or in groups on research, multimedia projects and entrepreneurial initiatives using state-of-the-art technology in highly configurable spaces. The library's open floor plan will encourage collaboration, while its overall layout allows faculty and staff to provide instruction, assistance and

student support. The new facility is a thorough renovation of the old building, and it brings together many aspects of campus life that had previously been distributed among various locations. Student convenience and the evolution of learning are key components of the project.

Thank you to the Subcommittee for your investment in the University of Baltimore's capital project program. Your support has made an important difference to our campus facilities and to the quality of our students' experience.

The University of Baltimore concurs with the Department of Legislative Services' recommendation for FY 2018 and respectfully asks for the Subcommittee's approval.



Interior Atrium View, Langsdale Library Renovation

Respectfully submitted,
Kurt L. Schmoke