

Testimony to the Maryland General Assembly

Senate & House – Capital Subcommittees
CAPITAL BUDGET HEARINGS

Presented by
Maria Thompson, Ph.D.
President, Coppin State University
March 2018



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Coppin State University

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Honorable Chairman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Coppin State University, I am pleased to report on the university's capital-funded activity and current needs relative to the Governor's FY2019 Capital Budget. I remain grateful for the continued support we have received from the Maryland General Assembly. This support recognizes the important role that Coppin State University plays as a member of the University System of Maryland.

Coppin State University is now moving into the phase of renovating existing facilities on campus. The Percy Julian Science Building was originally designed as a science building with lab space, built-in lab tables and benches. It is the university's intention to repurpose the Percy Julian Building with a focus on housing the newly accredited College of Business. Additionally, the Percy Julian Building will serve as an economic development hub for West Baltimore. In 2014, Coppin State University requested \$3.4M for planning funds for the renovation of the Percy Julian Building. This request was deferred by the General Assembly. In 2015, the Senate added language pre-authorizing \$1.2M partial planning funds for FY2016 and the House concurred. However, the Governor's CIP for planned funds deferred the funds until FY2017, resulting in a third deferral of this project. In FY2017, the project was placed in the Governor's supplemental budget but was again deferred to FY2018. Gratefully, the first half of the deferred funding for development under the design phase was ultimately authorized by the General Assembly and the Governor's supplemental budget. It is critical that this project continue to move forward as previously approved by the USM Board of Regents and pre-authorized by the General Assembly in 2014. We are requesting that the previously allocated \$1.634M be designated this year in FY2019. Furthermore, we are requesting that the construction funding scheduled for 2020-21 remain intact for disbursement at that time. This funding is critical in order to complete the renovation of Percy Julian Building.

The College of Business is academically and programmatically constrained in inadequate space within the Grace Jacobs Building. The renovation will provide suitable space to

house the College of Business. The renovation will also provide students and faculty with an environment that can support advanced instructional technologies and address many of the facilities' deficiencies. Currently, the Percy Julian Building has been vacant since the new Science & Technology Center was completed in July 2015. As previously noted, the majority of the building has outdated lab space. Furthermore, there are numerous ADA deficiencies, and the elevator does not comply with the current State requirements. The renovation of the building will not increase operational costs. In fact, renovation will have a substantial reduction in operating cost due to its improved efficiencies of the building operating systems.

The renovation of the Percy Julian Building is an imperative because it will support and enhance the quality of academic programs for students, faculty and staff. Additionally, it will provide the university with a modern functional facility that will position the university to better execute the mandates of its mission, including the economic development of West Baltimore.

It is important to note that enhancement of capital funding is essential for Coppin State University'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. As stated in the 2011 Coppin Study, Coppin State University's mission is unique and, while considerable progress has been made, much remains to be done. Coppin State University's Capital Improvement Program 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 the community as a whole through economic development.

We share with the State of Maryland and the University System of Maryland a commitment to provide our students state of the art educational facilities to enhance teaching and learning. We greatly appreciate your continued support of Coppin State University.

Renovation of Julian Science for the College of Business:

The Julian Science building has never functioned well for its intended purpose and, with the completion of the Science & Technology Center (2015), we hope to renovate this otherwise sturdy building in a prime North Avenue location to house academic functions associated with the College of Business. The proposed renovated facility will support: state of the art classrooms, specialized class laboratories, open labs, research space, faculty offices, academic departments, academic/business resource centers, student-support services, storage, etc.

FY2019 Request: \$1,634,000.00 (Planning)





1. Construct Parking Structure #1
 2. Construct New Residence Hall #3 (400 Beds)
 3. Construct New Residence Hall #4 (400 Beds)
 4. Construct Student Center
 5. Construct Conference Center (Walbrook Site)
 6. Construct Creative & Performing Arts Center
 7. Renovate/Addition Percy Julian, College of Business
 8. Construct College of Health Professions
 9. Construct Living & Learning Facility
 10. Construct Baseball Field & Facilities (Lutheran Site)
- * Renovation of Existing Buildings

PROPOSED CAMPUS PLAN