



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
Office of the President

University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Budget
Response to Department of Legislative Services Budget Analysis

Senate Committee: Budget and Taxation
Senate Subcommittee: Capital Budget
Senator Douglas J. J Peters, Chair
Hearing Date: March 3, 2020

House Committee: Appropriations
House Subcommittee: Capital Budget
Delegate Mark S. Chang, Chair
Hearing Date: March 11, 2020

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) would like to express our sincere gratitude to Governor Hogan and the Maryland Legislature for their recommendations to continue funding for construction of the first phase of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions building (SPHP) and the Campus Flood Mitigation project.

The University greatly appreciates the fiscal year 2021 \$57 million and subsequent future funding for the construction of the SPHP building. This facility is essential for us to meet the pharmacy program accreditation standards and to improve UMES' competitiveness for enrollment in the University's other health care programs. The \$10 million for the campus flood mitigation will finally allow UMES to focus on and implement recommended measures to protect our facility infrastructure and building assets from water intrusion.

The School of Pharmacy and Health Professions (SPHP) endeavors to develop leaders who improve health in all populations. The School also prepares its graduates to lead change in health care via inter-professional education, research, and service on the Eastern Shore, in the nation, and the world. To this end, the new SPHP building will serve to meet the spatial needs of the School, enhance the delivery of its curricula, improve its research infrastructure, and help meet the health care needs of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and the Delmarva region.

Currently, the pharmacy program operates out of five different buildings. The first phase of the new building will primarily provide space for this program. There are also a few designated spaces for the remaining health professions programs. Phase II of the new

building will provide office, classroom, research and specialized lab space for the kinesiology, physician assistant, physical therapy, and rehabilitation programs.

The classrooms and class laboratories will allow the faculty to use various forms of pedagogy to enhance the learning process. They will be technologically advanced and will meet the unique needs of this faculty. Classrooms and labs will also be designed to foster the kind of interdisciplinary training that our students will encounter in real world health care settings. The state-of-the-art research facilities will advance the University's research agenda as a recently designated Carnegie Doctoral University with high research activity. They will also enhance the School's capacity to collaborate with the pharmaceutical industry and conduct translational and health disparities research. The research labs will enable collaboration within the School and across the University thereby improving our competitiveness for grant funding. Over the past several years, the faculty have been awarded six patents for their research in prostate cancer and epilepsy and along with the students have held numerous health fairs and health training events.

All of the counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland are designated as Medically Underserved Areas and/or Health Professions Shortage Areas. The new building will allow the University to expand its programs to train more practitioners in an effort to meet the health care needs of the region and contribute to the nation's goal of achieving health equity for all. The assembly and conference meeting spaces will expand the University's commitment to the community by providing health and wellness activities and opportunities for continuing education training and certificate programs for health care providers in the region.

The Governor's FY 2020-2025 capital improvement program budget includes a \$5 million equipment allocation. Current construction worksheet estimates reflect \$7 million is necessary to adequately furnish and equip the building in a manner that affords outfitting the facility with a student-centered focus to increase student collaboration, involvement, engagement, feedback, and stimulation. UMES will respectfully seek supplemental funding of \$2 million in the FY 2022 capital improvement program and hope the Legislature would be supportive of this appeal.

The design of the SPHP building was completed last year and construction was planned to begin in December 2019. The start of construction was delayed by Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approval of the Forest Conservation Plan. DNR approval is expected this week. Construction will start immediately.





The campus flood Mitigation design is underway for the elements of the scope that are simple to implement, which are fortifying the basement infrastructures with flood mitigation equipment, renovations and updates to utilities, sewer and storm systems.

The proposed funding will not cover the cost to construct the floodwall along Manokin Branch or the maintenance of existing storm water management ponds as the University had hoped. These mitigation activities offer a higher level of protection against flooding to the campus. Projected costs for these initiatives



are estimated to be \$30 million. UMES is grateful for the funding we are receiving to address the flooding issues and is working with University of Maryland College Park Service Center to stretch the money to include as many flood mitigation actions as possible within the allocation.



Again, thank you so much for the recommendations to continue funding for the construction of Phase I of the new School of Pharmacy and Health Professions building and for the flood mitigation project. We greatly appreciate your support. The University invites each of you to join us for the groundbreaking ceremony for the new building on April 16, 2020 at 11 a.m.