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Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

House Appropriations Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
March 9, 2021

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Senator Douglas J.J. Peters, Chair
March 9, 2021

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) analysis of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County's (UMBC) fiscal 2022 budget request. UMBC's response to the recommendations and discussion item noted in the analysis are included below.

Capital Budget Recommended Actions

UMBC concurs with the DLS recommendation to approve \$6,936,000 in fiscal 2022 general obligation bond funding to complete construction of the Utility Upgrades and Site Improvements project.

Requested Consideration

The fiscal 2021 capital budget provided a \$6.0 million pre-authorization for fiscal 2022 to start design of the Sherman Hall renewal project. As now proposed with FY 2025 design funding, construction would not begin until July 2026. Without this funding, UMBC will continue to divert its limited facilities renewal funds to replace sections of exterior brick panels which years ago began to form large cracks and fall from the building. For each repair, offices must be vacated and classrooms, student testing and tutoring rooms, teaching labs, and other key functions must be taken off-line. We seek to avoid repeated disruptions to building occupants, teaching, and research over the course of the proposed three-year delay. The most efficient and cost-effective way to permanently remedy the failing façade and restore the building's life safety, mechanical and electrical systems is to renovate the building as one project, relocating everyone only once rather than multiple times. We request serious consideration to restore the \$6.0 million that was pre-authorized for fiscal 2022 so that we can begin design of a comprehensive renovation of Sherman Hall. As a large academic building housing classrooms, Advising, and the Registrar, failure there would have a tremendous negative impact on our students, faculty, and staff.