



Salisbury University
FY 2024 Capital Budget

Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Craig J. Zucker, Chair
Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Maryland House Appropriations
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Mark S. Chang, Chair
Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Salisbury University. Unfortunately, our new president, Dr. Carolyn Ringer Lepre, is not able to join us today as she is out of the country. She, however, sends her warmest regards from Gwangju, South Korea, where she is celebrating the tenth anniversary of SU's partnership with Chonnam National University.

Allow me to thank Governor Moore and all of the committee members for your support of our capital project request for the renovation of Blackwell Hall to convert it from our former library to a student services center. This project involves the much-needed centralization and expansion of many student-supporting departments including Academic Advising, Admissions, Career Services, Registrar, Bursar, Financial Aid, Counseling Center, and Student Health Center. Now more than ever, the success of this institution and its students strongly relies upon these groups working in concert together to meet our students' needs outside of the classroom. Bringing these units together in this renovated building facilitates greater integration of these important services and student engagement. Your support to retain this project in its current place is appreciated. This project allows SU to continue our efforts to recruit, retain, and enhance student success.

At this time, I would like to address the concern raised in the project analysis. DLS has asked that the University System of Maryland Service Center provide an updated cost estimate for the project which captures the spike in construction inflation which is especially acute on the Eastern Shore. In consultation with the Service Center, they have provided an updated cost estimate of \$50,830,000 for the project.

Thank you again for your dedication to our State and Salisbury University. My colleagues and I are happy to answer any questions you may have.