

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Fiscal Year 2026

CAPITAL BUDGET TESTIMONY



Presented by Dr. Aminta H. Breaux, *President*

House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Capital Budget

Delegate Mark S. Chang, *Chair*

March 10, 2025

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee Subcommittee on Capital Budget

Senator Craig Zucker, *Chair*

March 11, 2025

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On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Bowie State University, I am pleased to offer testimony regarding the Governor’s proposed capital budget for FY 2026. We appreciate the Governor’s commitment to funding the new Thurgood Marshall Library and Academic Commons, which will replace the current facility that was built in 1977. The new facility will address the University’s need for a modern and comprehensive library that enhances student and faculty research and learning opportunities. The entire campus community is excited about this long-awaited replacement facility.

I must thank the General Assembly for preauthorizing \$5.9 million in planning funds in FY 2026 for the new Thurgood Marshall Library and Academic Commons, on top of \$4.6 million in prior authorizations. This level of support means so much to the students and faculty who have waited far too long for this core academic building to be replaced. While I appreciate that this project is included in the Governor’s CIP, I am very concerned about the extended timeline proposed for the project. As currently proposed, the University could not begin construction until FY 2029, with completion likely not occurring until late in 2030. We need this project to be accelerated. Specifically, we respectfully ask that planning and construction funds be advanced to allow us to complete this critically important project sooner.



Existing library

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Built in 1977, the existing 166,869-square-foot facility is the second-largest building on campus. Besides the computer labs added in 1996, many essential library spaces have never been renovated. Instead, we continue to invest significant facility renewal funds to maintain the building, which, over time, has become home to various unrelated administrative offices for which there was no other space on campus. The facility has not kept pace with a modern academic library's technological and programmatic demands.

The new building will be located next to Henry Circle, between the Center for Business and Graduate Studies and the newly completed Martin Luther King, Jr. Center. It will be a physical and visual link between residential and commuter students with a gateway to the MARC train station. It will provide a collaborative and student-focused environment and be flexible and adaptable to respond to the ever-evolving demands of educational technology. The synergy created among these three buildings will help to provide a dynamic and welcoming hub of campus activity.



New Library and Academic Commons

The new facility will include a public commons, general collections, research commons, archives, instructional spaces, coaching and academic support centers, and 1000 patron seats. This modern, state-of-the-art academic hub will support BSU's enrollment growth

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and new academic programs. The Thurgood Marshall Library and Academic Commons are the University's highest priority.

With funding approval for FY 2026 and project acceleration in the CIP, the planning process can begin in Spring 2025. Our request is to fully fund and accelerate this project in the CIP so that we can complete construction in five years rather than six:

- \$10.756M in FY 2026
- \$45M in FY 2027
- \$100M in FY 2028
- \$44.755M in FY 2029
- \$41M in FY 2030

We appreciate all the support we have received as we work to improve the campus teaching and learning infrastructure. Our faculty and students have been energized by the opening of the new MLK Center last fall and there is great anticipation for the Academic Commons and Library. Thank you for your continued commitment to this critical project. Your support underscores the inextricable link between higher education and Maryland's economic growth and the significant role BSU serves.