

University of Baltimore – FY 2017 Capital Budget Testimony

By Kurt L. Schmoke, President

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee. On behalf of the University of Baltimore's administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni, I am pleased to update you today on the University's capital project, the renovation of Langsdale Library.

The governor's FY 2017 capital budget proposal includes \$9.3 million in construction funds to begin renovation of the University's 50-year-old library. Langsdale Library was constructed in 1965, and it has never been renovated in any significant way; virtually all building systems are in need of replacement or significant upgrading, and many elements do not meet current Americans with Disabilities Act standards and fire-suppression codes, putting occupants and collections at risk. In the governor's capital budget in FY 2014 and FY 2015, a total of \$ 3.775 million in planning and construction funds were allocated toward the renovation of the library. UB is also raising private funds toward the renovation project. These renovation funds will support the creation of a facility that is: fully compliant with ADA standards; features a reconfigured space plan with improved mechanical, fire-suppression, plumbing and electrical systems, in addition to cosmetic enhancements; achieves LEED Silver certification; and provides natural light and vertical connectivity that is consistent with the quality of our recent capital projects.

The project's design phase is complete. The bids on the major packages are expected on March 14, 2016. While these bids are reviewed, the contractor is scheduled to mobilize on site to begin construction activities. The FY 2017 funding will allow the University to maintain the current schedule and present the construction contracts to the Board of Public Works in July, 2017. We anticipate opening the renovated library in January 2018.

The Langsdale Library renovation represents smart reuse of the existing facility without the excessive cost of constructing a brand-new library building. This approach is considerably less expensive than other options, including building a new library per State standards, which would be a facility that is double its current size and at a considerably higher projected cost. UB has developed a renovation plan that creatively repurposes its existing library building to save state capital funding while still meeting the library needs of current and future students. During the construction and renovation, current library services are temporarily located in the University's H. Mebane Turner Learning Commons building.

The renovation of the current library structure will transform Langsdale Library from an old-fashioned book repository into a 21st-century information commons. The renovated library will apply forward-thinking technologies in information delivery and provide enhanced learning space by offering core services in one location. **The University of Baltimore concurs with the Department of Legislative Services' recommendation for FY 2017 and respectfully asks for the Subcommittee's approval.**

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of the University of Baltimore's capital project goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt L. Schmoke