

Capital Budget Working Session
May 15, 2003

Salisbury University
Janet Dudley-Eshbach, President

I'd like to thank the Board of Regents' Finance Committee and other Regents and USM officials in attendance for permitting me this opportunity to talk with you about Salisbury University's strategic goals for its capital program over the next decade.

At SU, our new **master facilities plan** is almost in final draft, and I would like to share some of the surprising and positive insights that originate from this document. The most interesting observation from the consultants is that Salisbury University has ample room to grow. While many on my campus had seen SU as landlocked, the CSD consultants perceive more than sufficient space, both on our main campus and on our east campus, to meet the needs of an expanding institution for the foreseeable future. The color maps attached show you the campus as it exists today and the possibilities that exist for the Salisbury University of tomorrow.

In the approximate center of the existing campus map, you will see the **Henson Science Building**, inaugurated this past fall and the newest academic building erected since 1991. The Henson Science Building was opened on time and under budget and has been acclaimed by the Henson Dean and faculty alike as a wonderful new addition to our campus. It has experienced very few mechanical problems in what is a highly sophisticated building, and students have praised the research labs and open meeting space. I thank the Regents and USM officials for your support in making this dream of a state-of-the-art science building come true.

Capital Projects – State Support (Capital Improvement Program)

Teacher Education and Technology Complex: Our most urgent capital budget project now is our planned Teacher Education and Technology Complex. The Board has already acknowledged the need that SU has for providing an adequate and technologically-advanced home for the Seidel School of Education and Professional Studies and has approved the inclusion of this building in the capital budget. We were very fortunate that planning money for the Teacher Ed Complex was incorporated into the capital budget submitted to the Governor. On the Salisbury University Master Plan map that you have, that building is identified by the letter “A.” Our plan now is to locate this 165,000 GSF (95,235 NASF) building on the corner of Route 13 and College Avenue and to have it serve as a signature building readily seen by the high volume traffic using Route 13. This is particularly meaningful to our campus in light of our start as a Normal School and State Teacher’s College. We hope to combine this state-supported building project with an auxiliary revenue bond project for a parking facility (identified by the letter “H”) to compensate for parking spaces lost in the construction. Additional parking is another urgent need.

New Library: Next we hope to build a new library. Salisbury University has received many accolades in the last decade, and the ranking of Blackwell Library as the sixth among the twenty *worst* libraries identified in *The Princeton Review’s Best 345 Colleges* (2003 edition) points to the gross inadequacy of the existing facility. I have attached a table entitled “Blackwell Library Peer Comparison Study Results” that indicates our extremely poor showing in comparisons with our peers in every assessment category except number of hours open. SU simply must have a new library that befits our reputation, our standards, and the needs of our students. The plan is to tear down Caruthers Hall, a demonstration laboratory school built in 1955, which is woefully inadequate and not suited to renovations, and build our new library at site “D” on the map to serve as a true centerpiece of a comprehensive university campus. Included in the new library will be space for the Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, the

premier site for original artifacts related to Delmarva history and fast becoming an integral student and community resource.

Perdue School of Business: The Perdue School of Business is currently located in the north wing of Holloway Hall, in space that does not support the growth and prestige of the programs offered. We are proposing a new building on the main campus along College Avenue.

Capital Projects – Auxiliary Support (System Funded Construction Program)

Parking: Because of the enrollment growth experienced and anticipated at Salisbury University, parking facilities has become our number one priority for auxiliary support capital projects. Surface parking will no longer be adequate to serve the campus population without building parking lots an unacceptable distance from classrooms and offices. With anticipated construction of additional buildings on the main campus, we believe that the erection of several parking structures will be necessary. These would be four levels, with the lowest level partially buried, reducing the height of these structures to about 25 feet, similar to the height of a two-story building.

Public-Private Partnerships for Student Housing: SU currently has an identified need of 888 beds for student housing. We are satisfying 312 of these required beds through a public-private partnership arrangement that will expand our existing low-rise apartments at University Park by fall 2004. Our consultants have identified space for a residence hall on campus, and we will be returning to the Board of Regents with a request for additional student housing support in the future.

Athletic Field House: State Space Guidelines point to significant space deficiencies across nearly every category of university space usage (see attached table), but the greatest deficit exists in SU's athletic and recreational space allocations. Our current field house, Maggs Physical Activities Center, built in 1977, is heavily used, is not air-

conditioned, and was designed for a much smaller university. A new field house is very much needed.

Over the past decade, Salisbury University has grown dramatically in enrollment and reputation. As our Master Plan experts point out, our campus facilities and grounds have not kept pace. Our vision for the future is bold, and we will be steadfast in our efforts to make the SU 2003 Master Plan recommendations a reality. We trust we will have your support as we work towards this goal.