

Testimony Presented To

The House Capital Budget Subcommittee

The Senate Capital Budget Subcommittee

By President Janet Dudley-Eshbach, Ph.D.

March 2013

Salisbury
UNIVERSITY



Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Governor's proposed FY 2014 capital budget. As we strive to provide the academic programs and facilities to meet the needs of our current student body, Salisbury University has many challenges before us. This document will provide an overview of SU's capital priorities spanning the next 10 years.

The Academic Commons

First, I offer a resounding thank you! Our Academic Commons is now under design, a development made possible by this body preauthorizing the funds for this critical facility during the 2012 General Assembly Session. The Academic Commons will replace SU's Blackwell Library, built in 1958 for a campus population of fewer than 3,000 and lacking the sufficient space, configuration, technology, systems and learning environment needed by today's student body. More than the traditional library, however, SU's Academic Commons will be the hub of student learning on our campus. Besides the expanded space for books, journals and other research resources, the Commons will house the Center for Student Achievement; the Nabb Center for Delmarva History and Culture; classrooms and other spaces for student group work; a cyber café; faculty gathering space; an auditorium; and a variety of other spaces in support of research and learning. Later this semester, I'll have an exciting announcement regarding a major private gift related to this project and, shortly afterward, we will begin to clear the site for this much-needed facility on our campus. Again, thank you for your support for this project and I hope you'll join me when we cut the ribbon on this new building in summer of 2016.



Future Campus Capital Needs

Salisbury University continues to enjoy significant demand from Maryland's high school graduates, resulting in high selectivity and rising quality. Our significant efforts to support student success are resulting in high student retention and the second highest graduation rate in the University System of Maryland. As importantly, SU produces degrees at the lowest cost in the State in terms of general fund support and time-to-degree. The capital investments made on our campus are critical to providing the facilities needed to continue to help the State in achieving its college completion goals.

Looking beyond the Academic Commons, SU has a number of short- and long-term capital needs. Three of these projects which will appear in upcoming capital improvement program requests are highlighted below.

Fine and Performing Arts Complex

The University is severely hampered by our dearth of gathering space and the types of events which we can host. The Fine and Performing Arts Complex envisioned would include studio, gallery and performance space for artists, as well as a larger more versatile venue to provide increased cultural opportunities for the campus and the greater community.

Maggs Physical Activities Center Renovation

The Maggs Physical Activities Center, built in 1977, is home to many academic, athletic and campus recreation activities. Built without air conditioning, HVAC was installed in the main gym in 2011, but the facility, for the most part, is not air conditioned and does not comply with current building codes.

Dresser Property Purchase

The former home of Dresser Industries, located on an 11-acre site adjacent to Salisbury's East Campus, is needed to accommodate future campus growth. Once environmental issues on the former manufacturing site are resolved, SU will move to acquire this key property. In addition to other uses, the site is envisioned for location of the Fine and Performing Arts Complex previously described.

These capital projects, combined with additional projects financed through the System Funded Construction Program,¹ will ensure that Salisbury University continues to meet the needs of current and future Marylanders in a community which provides a supportive and safe learning environment. I thank you for your support of the Governor's Capital Improvement Program and for all that you do on behalf of the great State of Maryland.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Dudley-Eshbach".

President Janet Dudley-Eshbach, Ph.D.

¹ The SFCP budget is primarily funded by USM debt or cash set-asides in support of institutional auxiliary projects.