



FY18 CAPITAL TESTIMONY

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
CAPITAL BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE**

**SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
CAPITAL BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE**

RONALD H. NOWACZYK, PRESIDENT

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EDUCATION & HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you today about a critically important project for the future of Frostburg State University and our region, the Education and Health Sciences Center.

This new academic space would meet a series of needs for our student body, our academic programs and the state's workforce needs:

HEALTH CARE DISCIPLINES:

Our fastest-growing disciplines are in the health care field.

- Since it was introduced in just 2011, our **Bachelor of Science in Nursing** RN completion program has grown dramatically. We awarded 139 bachelor in nursing degrees in 2016, up by 42 from the previous year's 97. This program recently received continuing accreditation.
- Our **Master of Science in Nursing**, which received initial accreditation this fall, has tracks to prepare graduates to be nursing administrators and nursing faculty – helping solve the shortage at nursing schools, a situation that has exacerbated the shortage of nurses nationwide.
- We also instituted a **Health Science major** in the fall of 2015 to prepare graduates to enter a range of health-focused careers, and by the fall of 2016, we had 130 students declaring that major.
- We are continuing to **adapt as the demands of our students change**. We are in discussions with local community colleges to expand our 2+2 program offerings, including in nursing, as well as a collaborative BSN program with Allegany College of Maryland. This program allows for more students who want a four-year college experience in nursing to combine their studies and earn degrees from both institutions. In some cases, the timing of courses is being adjusted from traditional term lengths to shorter periods in which the students can concentrate on a single topic.
- While our initial programs – the BSN and MSN – are online, newer programs, such as the Health Science major and collaborative nursing programs, as well as those in the pipeline for approval or development, will require **face-to-face facilities**.
- One program that is under review for approval is a **Nurse Practitioner master's degree program in Family Practice and Psychiatric-Mental Health**. This and other programs under consideration will have a focus on addressing the health care needs in rural areas, where primary care physicians and specialists are in particularly short supply. In addition, the shortage of mental health providers is far worse than even the shortage of primary care providers; shortages are especially critical in Western Maryland, Southern Maryland and on the Eastern Shore. Frostburg's proposal for a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner program will be critical in helping to address the drug abuse crisis plaguing rural America.

FSU'S BUILDINGS AT A GLANCE

Academic Building	Year Constructed
● Old Main	1902
● Lowndes Hall	1950
● Pullen Hall	1959
● Gunter Hall	1960
● Framptom Hall	1965
● Dunkle Hall	1969
● Fine Arts	1969
● Ort Library	1976
● PE Center	1978
● Guild Center (remodeled)	1986
● Performing Arts Center	1993
● Compton Science Center	2003
● Gira Center	2014

- The University recently received a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission for our **nursing skills laboratory and simulation center**. The majority of this project is the purchase of technologically advanced equipment, including high-fidelity adult and pediatric mannequins, and related materials that will be transferable to this new facility. This laboratory will primarily serve the current collaborative nursing program and the proposed nurse practitioner program.

College of Education:

- The Maryland State Board of Education continues to report **teacher shortages**, with every district in the state reporting difficulty in finding certified teachers, especially in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields, special education and English as a second language. It is essential that the University expands its capacity to deliver qualified graduates from state-of-the-art facilities to contribute to the training of Maryland’s knowledge-based economy and the creation of a solid cadre of educators for K-20. Modernization of both these programs is essential to meeting the Board of Regents’ Strategic Goals for graduation and degree rates for Maryland residents.
- **Framptom Hall**, the current home to the Department of Educational Professions – which it shares with the College of Business – was built in 1965 as the college library. Renovated in 1980, the building is not well-adapted for the current technological and educational climate, and the classroom sizes are not large enough for current enrollment. This reliance on improvised academic space does not serve our student population well and will become even more difficult to adapt in the future. Much of this older infrastructure is served by aging and inefficient HVAC and lighting systems; these buildings are also more challenging for ADA accommodations.



Business classroom in Framptom Hall



Framptom Hall, the current home of Educational Professions and the College of Business, was constructed in 1965 to serve as the college library.



Education classroom in Framptom Hall

- In particular, there is an urgent need for **technologically enhanced instructional space**, which is difficult to incorporate into older buildings. The teachers that FSU is preparing must be well-versed in the capabilities and uses of the most current educational technology to properly serve in Maryland's classrooms.
- Frostburg State University has begun awarding doctorates in our applied doctoral program in Educational Leadership, serving educational professionals across Western Maryland.
- The College of Education also houses health programs with a focus on prevention: **Exercise and Sport Science, Athletic Training, Health and Physical Education** (for teacher certification) and **Health Promotion**. Exercise and Sport Science and Athletic Training, in particular, have a need for space to house modern equipment, as they currently use a building that opened in 1977 and offers too little room to accommodate new courses or the program's demands.



Brady Health Center was built for a student population of 1,600. Frostburg's head count today is over 5,000.

Campus Health: Addressing student physical and mental health

- The new facility will incorporate the **Brady Health Center**, the University's ambulatory health clinic. It is accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC), meeting rigorous national standards. Brady has achieved accreditation for 16 years, but its facility is 48 years old, built for a student population of 1,600 (our fall 2017 headcount was 5,676). A new facility would be better equipped to adapt to modern medical technology.
- This building will also house FSU's **Counseling and Psychological Services**. This program, which offers a variety of counseling and developmental services to students, is accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services. Individual and group counseling, as well as 24-hour crisis intervention, are among its services.

PROJECT DETAILS

The construction of a building for the Education and Health professions, coupled with the campus health facilities, will accomplish several objectives as it contributes to academic life and the student life experience. It should

- Provide state-of-the-art, technologically based classrooms and learning environments for nurses, health professionals, teacher educators, and the growing fields of exercise and sports science and athletic training;
- Continue Frostburg's commitment to serve the state and the region by providing opportunities for advanced education in health care;
- Build on Frostburg's commitment to graduating highly qualified and sought-after teachers in the local, state and national education market;
- Establish a first-class student wellness center; and
- Provide a new and modern health facility to meet the needs of the University's student population.



We wish to express our appreciation for the support of the University System of Maryland and its Board of Regents in advancing the needed funding thus far. I urge you to proceed with the additional planning funds in this year's budget, as these planning funds were delayed at the request of the Department of Budget and Management last year. If the Board of Regents' schedule is maintained, final planning and design funding are designated for FY2019, with construction coming in logical progression in FY2020 and FY2021. Equipment money would also be included in FY2021. We are eager to continue moving forward with this project and ask for your support of the Governor's capital budget.



Construction of Frostburg's new Public Safety Building is nearing completion.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

We would be remiss if we did not express our gratitude for the state's support of our Public Safety Building, which is substantially complete. We expect to take possession of the building and begin moving in within the coming weeks. In addition to helping us meet the standards of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, this new building will play an important role in our ongoing collaboration with the city of Frostburg in keeping our shared community safe.



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