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**TOPIC:** Towson University: Construction of a Public Safety Building

**COMMITTEE:** Finance

**DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:** November 17, 2011

**SUMMARY:** Towson University requests authorization to build a two-story, 20,000 gross square foot Public Safety Building on its campus.

The facility is intended to address current and projected facility needs of the Office of Public Safety, which includes the Towson University Police Department, the Environmental Health and Safety Department, and the Access Control Department. The building will provide a consolidated and larger location for the departments, which are currently dispersed throughout three locations on campus.

The building program addresses the facilities needs and personnel growth based on serving a projected campus enrollment of 25,000 students by 2019. In addition to accommodating the Office of Public Safety, completion of the new building will provide expansion space for decompression and growth of the Facilities Management Department, as well as develop adequate parking facilities for both Public Safety and Facilities Management. This action also allows the University to remove a leased trailer from campus (saving approximately \$6,000 annually).

Typically, a project of this type would be approved as part of the capital budget process. Given the critical nature of the need and the current availability of institutional funds, the institution has asked that the Board consider this request at this time. Authorization to move forward with design was provided by the USM in January 2011, and design commenced in June 2011. Construction is expected to be complete by November 2012. The project is consistent with the priorities and needs set forth in Towson University's 2009 *Campus Master Plan*.

**ALTERNATIVE(S):** If the University does not construct the building, it will not have adequate space or parking for its Public Safety and Facilities Management departments, which continue to grow as student enrollment increases. Additionally, the University would not benefit from the operational efficiencies that would result from consolidating the Public Safety departments.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Towson University will fund the \$8 million project out of its own cash reserves.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** That the Finance Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve for Towson University the construction of a Public Safety Building, as described above, for a cost not to exceed \$8 million.

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: It was the sense of the committee members present that the item should be recommended for approval. DATE: 11/17/11

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BOARD ACTION: DATE:

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SUBMITTED BY: Joseph F. Vivona (301) 445-1923

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