



BOARD OF REGENTS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Minutes of the Public Session
January 26, 2012
UMUC Inn and Conference Center

Senator Kelly called the meeting of the Finance Committee of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to order in public session at 10:08 a.m. Senator Kelly moved and Regent Attman seconded to convene in closed session. At 10:08 a.m., the Committee voted unanimously to go into closed session under State Government Article Section 10-508(a) to discuss and take action on institutional real estate transactions. The session adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

The Committee reconvened in public session at 11:04 a.m. Those Regents participating included: Mr. Attman, Dr. Florestano, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Kinkopf, Mr. Wojciechowski and Mr. McMillen. Also present were: Dr. Kirwan, Mr. Vivona, Dr. Loh, Dr. Perman, Mr. Faulk, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Specter, Ms. Byington, Mr. Lockett, Mr. Shoenberger, Ms. Jones, Mr. Short, Ms. Motsko, Mr. Farley, Mr. Colella, Ms. Testa, Mr. Beck, Mr. Page, Ms. McMann, and other members of the USM community and the public.

1. University of Maryland, College Park: Facilities Master Plan 2011-2030
(presentation and discussion)

President Loh gave a brief presentation on the facilities master plan, which he explained was a broad evolving planning document. He indicated that the plan had been vetted extensively. President Loh emphasized issues and connections with the community, rather than buildings during his dialogue. He noted that a master plan has to address larger issues, not just where one sites buildings. He started off with a very timely topic, sustainability, stormwater, to be specific, and then hit all the most critical highlights throughout. He also discussed the University's designation as a national Arboretum and Botanical Garden. The University has used this special opportunity to create a comprehensive plan for the landscape of the entire campus in an effort to emphasize the park-like nature of the campus. The issues of safety, transportation, and the creation of a new neighborhood center, East Campus, were also part of the thinking in the development of the planning document. Dr. Loh pointed out that it is simply unsustainable to have all of these surface parking lots on the campus. Plans for East Campus envision an upscale hotel and conference center. While a feasibility study is underway, Dr. Loh believes the demand is there, noting that there are 800 weddings a year at the campus chapel and limited nearby options for guests. Chancellor Kirwan concurred and added that this hotel would be focused on activities at the campus.

At the conclusion of the presentation, several members of the committee offered their praise of the plan. Regent Attman pointed out how he loved the fact that the president led and closed with excellence. Chancellor Kirwan asked Dr. Loh to comment on the facilities renewal aspect of the plan with regard to the infrastructure as well as any major challenges. Dr. Loh responded that

the infrastructure issue is referred to as the “invisible crisis.” He acknowledged that 25% of all of the institution’s facilities were in need of renewal, at a cost of about \$750 million. One major challenge is the need to add new facilities—lab buildings in particular—if the University is to grow by 2,500 students. An analysis of the building stock would indicate that the campus is short by 24 buildings. An estimated 20-25% of the space shortfall would be for labs in support of STEM. A second challenge is to create a top 20 college town, to match the top 20 University. The president expressed his desire to have staff and faculty live in College Park, noting that he had purchased a home close by. He told of his work with the county executive to create a charter school in College Park. Regent McMillen asked if there was any plan for the land currently in use as a golf course. Mr. Colella responded that there is sufficient area in the core campus for infill. Senator Kelly concluded the discussion by expressing his appreciation for the plan’s emphasis on community, biking, and walkability, and then applauded the efforts of Dr. Loh and his staff.

The University of Maryland, College Park 2011-2030 Facilities Master Plan will be on the March 29 agenda for consideration of approval by the Finance Committee.

The Committee adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Frank X. Kelly
Chairman, Committee on Finance