



TOPIC: Towson University: Facilities Master Plan Update

COMMITTEE: Finance

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: September 29, 2015 (action)
September 10, 2015 (presentation and information)

SUMMARY: Towson University is requesting Board of Regents approval of the 2015-2024 Facilities Master Plan (FMP).

Towson University is located at the northern edge of the Baltimore metropolitan region, just south of Towson, Baltimore's northern edge city. The University is the second largest in the State of Maryland with over 22,000 students and has been designated as a growth institution by the University System of Maryland. The University provides undergraduate and graduate education, workforce development, applied research and serves as a resource for local, regional, and statewide communities through community outreach and partnerships. The campus is comprised of 328 acres, consisting of 55 buildings with over 5.6 million gross square feet (GSF) of academic and auxiliary space. As per the fall 2014 SGAP report, the University has a space deficit of 252,000 net assignable square feet or about 441,000 GSF.

The University has followed the 2009 FMP. Since the plan's approval in 2009, the University has completed the College of Liberal Arts Phase 2 adding 193,000 GSF of academic space. In 2011, the West Village Housing Phase 2 project was completed (647 student beds), West Village Commons, and the West Village Garage (1,500 parking spaces). In 2013 the University completed Richmond and Newell Hall's renovation, SECU Arena, Ward and West renovation, Public Safety Building and additional space for Counseling and Health Services. In 2014 the renovation of 7400 York Road was completed, as well as the Campus Site and Safety Phase II project, which included a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge across Osler Avenue connecting the West Village to the Core Campus.

The 2015 FMP supports the University's mission and 2020 Strategic Plan. The plan builds upon the framework established in the 2009 FMP and addresses physical planning aspects associated with the University's planned enrollment growth. Through new construction and renovation, the 2015 FMP addresses the existing space deficit and provides the additional academic and auxiliary space to support future enrollment growth. The plan develops the campus to the responsible capacity of the land, strengthens pedestrian and community connections, and provides a functional alignment of colleges and departments. The plan defines the campus edges, entrances, and destination centers through both natural and built landscapes. The plan also sets forth a comprehensive strategy for renewal and reinvestment in existing facilities to address the existing deferred maintenance backlog and improve the functionality and energy efficiency of the existing physical plant.

The 2015 FMP builds upon the University's commitment to develop a more sustainable campus. The plan continues to preserve, protect, and buffer the campus' existing steep slopes, streams, and wooded areas and will add a net gain of green spaces. All new and major renovation construction projects will incorporate LEED and/or IgCC building standards, seek to limit net gain of impervious surface and preserve green space. Extending the central utility loop to new and existing buildings will improve energy efficiency. Parking and transportation projects and policy recommendations are designed to reduce the university's carbon footprint and traffic on local and state roads.

ALTERNATIVE(S): The 2015 FMP documents institutional long term planning objectives and is consistent with the 2009 FMP, the University's mission, strategic plan and the current enrollment growth projections. Unanticipated enrollment growth, the development of detailed facility programs, and a desire to meet unexpected State of Maryland workforce and societal needs may require additional master plan studies in the future.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Towson University Facilities Master Plan 2015 will present a challenge to the capital and operating budgets to secure funding to support the plan. Approval of the Plan Update does not imply approval of capital projects or funding. These items will be reviewed through the normal procedures of the capital and operating budget processes.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: That the Finance Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the Towson University Facilities Master Plan 2015 and materials as presented to the Committee on September 10, in accordance with the Board's two-step approval process. Approval of the Plan does not imply approval of capital projects or funding. These items will be reviewed through the normal procedures of the capital and operating budget processes.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DATE: 9/29/15

BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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