



Patricia R. Guerrieri Academic Commons

The Academic Commons

You can only imagine the excitement on SU's campus now that construction of this 221,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art signature facility is underway. As we enter the legislature of constraint, the Governor's full Capital Improvement Program (CIP) appropriation for the Academic Commons is not only increasing costs to the project, but also

could significantly affect our academic operations.

We appreciate the General Assembly having approved, during the last legislative session, our request to reallocate \$10 million from FY 2016 to FY 2015 to ensure that we have sufficient

also to take in the year's end. I am concerned that the Department of Budget and

Management (DBM) had reduced the overall allocation by \$4.45 million, and \$3.2 million of that has been added to the project for the purpose of including a

While I know we are here to discuss

capital needs I need to highlight our
concern regarding DBM's recommended

SU's projects for the near future will need to be funded from a variety of sources. The Maggs Physical Activities Center Renovation has been in the capital projects queue for many years, and we will continue to request that it be included in the Governor's Capital Budget. Similarly, once the environmental concerns have been resolved, the Dresser Property purchase will be a part of the CIP. The Fine and Performing Arts Complex is also a priority for the campus as identified in our new Facilities Master Plan. SU will continue to look for donors and other fund sources to help offset the State funds necessary to make that project a reality.

The Guerrieri University Center (GUC) renovation will be funded

through the use of Auxiliary Bonds. Surge space will be required during the GUC and Maggs renovations; once the Academic Commons is completed, it may be possible that Blackwell Library and the Nabb Center in the East Campus Complex can provide that space with minor renovations. A thorough evaluation of this option has not yet been performed, but, if found to be feasible, internal funds can be utilized to cover those costs. The optimal long-term uses of Blackwell Library and the Nabb Center after the Academic Commons is complete have not yet been determined. Our Facilities Planning Department continues to evaluate the options.