



Dear Bowie State University Community,

Thank you to everyone who participated in today's budget forum and for the thoughtful engagement, questions and feedback shared throughout this process. We recognize that conversations about budgets, institutional change and organizational restructuring can create uncertainty and concern. We remain committed to communicating openly and transparently as we navigate these challenges together as a university community.

The [FY27 Budget Forum presentation](#) is available on the university website. Prior [budget presentations](#) are also available for your review online.

As shared during the forum, Bowie State continues to face significant financial pressures due to reduced state and federal funding, enrollment-related revenue declines, increasing operating costs and broader economic challenges affecting higher education nationally.

For FY27, the university is projecting an estimated \$18 million budget shortfall. In response, university leadership has worked collaboratively across divisions to identify strategies that prioritize long-term financial sustainability while protecting our core mission of student success, academic excellence and institutional growth.

As part of the FY27 budget mitigation plan, **the university will need to reduce an estimated 75 positions through a combination of vacancies, organizational realignments, and layoffs.** This includes:

- 26 staff layoffs
- 49 faculty and staff vacancies
- 9 position realignments and departmental reorganizations

No tenured or tenure-track faculty positions will be impacted during FY27.

We understand the human impact these decisions carry and recognize the concern this news may create for members of our campus community. These decisions were not made lightly and came only after extensive efforts to identify operational savings and alternative reductions wherever possible. The university remains committed to supporting affected employees through career transition resources and services designed to assist individuals as they move forward professionally.

Additionally, the State of Maryland's FY27 budget includes a funded 1.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for employees. We recognize how important this increase is to our faculty and staff during a time of rising costs and economic uncertainty, and we are grateful for the state's continued investment in higher education employees.

We also want to reassure the campus community that students should not experience direct impacts from the current budget mitigation efforts. Student-centered programming funded through student activity fees will continue, internal scholarships will remain intact, and additional scholarship support will be available through the university's recent MacKenzie Scott gift. Course offerings are expected to remain consistent for the 2026–2027 academic year, and VA educational benefits remain federally protected.

While difficult decisions are necessary, the university is also continuing to position itself for long-term success through strategic operational improvements and investments in enrollment recovery, infrastructure and student support services. These efforts include improving efficiencies through technology and process modernization, reducing operational expenses and addressing long-term structural barriers to growth.

We also want to extend our sincere appreciation to Governor Wes Moore, Senate President Bill Ferguson, House Speaker Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Senators Guy Guzzone, Nancy King and Ron Watson, Delegates Ben Barnes, Stephanie Smith, Kym Taylor, Adrian Boafo, Marvin Holmes and Malcolm Ruff, and other members of the Maryland General Assembly for their continued support of higher education and Bowie State University. Their partnership has helped secure important investments that will strengthen the university's future, including:

- \$4.802 million for planning the Thurgood Marshall Library and Academic Commons
- \$1 million for boiler and chiller upgrades to improve campus infrastructure and energy efficiency
- \$500,000 for campus safety and security upgrades
- \$2 million for MARC Station redevelopment infrastructure improvements to enhance campus accessibility and regional connectivity

These investments reflect continued confidence in Bowie State University's future and our ability to grow, evolve and serve the next generation of students.

Thank you for your continued dedication, resilience and commitment to Bowie State University and our students.

Sincerely,

Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.

President

Guy-Alain Amoussou, Ph.D.

Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Manish Kumar

Vice President for Administration & Finance

