

Dear _____,

I want to address you personally to share some information regarding the plans for a new building for the College of Law. As I am sure you are aware, a campaign was launched several years ago to raise money for a new facility. Due to the economic downturn and the Commonwealth's fiscal situation, plans for the new building have stalled.

President Capilouto has spoken many times about the need to improve the physical plant of the University and the College of Law is certainly part of that discussion. President Capilouto and I have worked together to evaluate various options for advancing the law school building project. One of those options includes the possibility of reimagining the College of Law in the location where it stands today. This new vision for the facility would include a complete overhaul of the current structure and an expansion into the nearby area. This option has several advantages including reducing the cost of construction by 50 percent, ensuring our building stays on the campus grid which would keep overhead costs to a minimum, and remaining a visible and vibrant "front door" to the University.

While this option might well be the new direction for our law school facility, no final decision has been made at this time. Even with a much reduced cost of construction a new building will require several million dollars and that type of funding is not available through the state. We are looking at various funding models to try to determine if this option could be accomplished.

To ensure the necessary space at our current site, the programs in two neighboring houses owned by the University may need to be relocated. You will likely see or hear more about this from the local media in the coming days.

It is my hope that this message makes clear to you that there are no definitive plans for the new building. We are simply doing our due diligence by exploring various options that could result in a new structure. When I am confident that the cost and scope of a new facility are attainable, I will share the good news with each of you. In the meantime, I ask that you bear this message in mind when you see media speculation about the project.

Regards,

DAB

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