AGENCY FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
BUDGET ENTITY SUS
PROJECT TITLE Computer Information System (CIS)

PURPOSE, NEED, SCOPE, RELATIONSHIP OF PROJECT TO AGENCY OBJECTIVES

The Department of Computer and Information Sciences has its historical roots in the Florida A&M University B.S. in Data Processing Technology, established in 1967. Since its inception, the programs boast over 1300 graduates with diverse careers from technology, law, entertainment, education and entrepreneurship. Currently, the department serves nearly 300 students in three undergraduate programs and one graduate program. Two new programs in cyber security are planned during the academic year 2020.

The department is housed in Banneker Technical Center Building A, which opened in 1967. This facility lacks most amenities typical of high technology programs across the SUS and nationwide. This lack impacts the ability to attract top students, faculty and employers, and to provide the necessary stimulating environment for learning, research and collaboration. Employing new pedagogical approaches requires technology and adequate workspaces. Although technology has been retrofitted into this 1967 building, the facility lacks the integration of technology reflective of contemporary corporations and institutions of higher learning.

The CIS Department serves STEM students at FAMU and engineering students in the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. Expansion of CIS programs and enrollment of non-STEM students is inevitable, given the elevation of technologies such as mobile computing, AI and machine learning, data science and cybersecurity. The department is positioned to increase its offering of service courses to enhance technology skills for all majors on campus. An attractive, functional modern facility is essential.

a. Will it improve the national ranking of a specific college; e.g. Music, Business?

Yes. FAMU is one of few National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE/CD). In addition to supporting academic programs, a new building provides a venue to host events highlighting academic and research accomplishments by faculty and students, including regional conferences and workshops.

b. Will it allow for the creation of a new academic program?

New academic programs are planned, starting in 2020. Attractive and functional spaces are required for classrooms employing collaborative or active learning, for laboratories supporting faculty research, for creative spaces for student exploration, and for social spaces for community building.

c. Will it create both new research capability and capacity; requiring material institutional support?

The College of Science and Technology has been proactive in positioning the university for the expansion in CIS degree programs and for the increased importance of computing (including cybersecurity) to all disciplines on campus. New faculty are expected to engage in leading edge collaborative research spanning boundaries of computing and other academic disciplines.

These initiatives support the following University Strategic Goals:

Strategic Priority 1: Exceptional Student Experience

- Goal 1: Enhance pathways to degree attainment
- Goal 2: Achieve national distinction for success in retention and graduation rates

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- Goal 3: Increase the proportion of students completing high-impact co-curricular experiences to 60%
- Goal 4: Increase the number of students graduating from programs in areas of high employer demand
- Goal 5: Strategically enhance campus residence, athletics, recreational, instructional, and research facilities.

Strategic Priority 2: Excellent and Renowned Faculty

- Goal 1: Promote faculty excellence by recruiting, supporting and retaining a diverse faculty with a commitment to teaching, research, and community engagement, consistent with a doctoral-research University.
- Goal 2: Maintain and develop sustainable state of the art facilities that support the academic enterprise of the University.

Strategic Priority 3: High Impact Research, Commercialization, Outreach, and Extension Services

- Goal 1: Expand and enhance cutting-edge research and creative scholarship for the benefit of the state of Florida, the nation and the world.
- Goal 2: Increase research productivity, commercialization and return on investment.