a slower pace, we must also prepare for the possibility that the economic outlook will continue to be both bleak and volatile." And she cautioned, "Any decision will, of course, depend on our ability to proceed without compromising the University's long-term financial health.

In this context, it comes as no surprise that long-term planning for academic expansion in Allston as a whole (beyond the fast-tracked initial science complex) "will occur at a slower pace," Faust wrote, "and our broader plans for developing the Allston campus are delayed." A new master-plan submission to Boston authorities had been expected early this year; now, no timeline has been disclosed, even though Faust noted, "Harvard's 50-year vision for Allston is undiminished, regardless of these short-term challenges.

A different challenge awaits on the Cambridge side of the Charles. Unlike the science complex, which would yield additional space for programs that can be temporarily housed elsewhere, the Fogg Art Museum underpins teaching and research in the arts and other disciplines. And it is closed, with staff and collections warehoused off site, in anticipation of a wholesale renovation and reconfiguration that has been on track to begin this fall and last until 2013. Renzo Piano's design work was scheduled to conclude this spring, to be followed by construction drawings, bidding, and site preparation for a complex project, in tight quarters, with a cost estimated at $350 million to $400 million. Christopher M. Gordon, chief operating officer of the University's Allston Development Group, is engaged in the Fogg program, too. Presumably, the earlier stage of the work provides greater scope for rethinking costs before construction begins. Harvard benefactors have made major commitments to the project, but securing full funding may be difficult. As the Allston building is reassessed, the Fogg project's scope and cost are being analyzed, too. Whatever decision emerges, perhaps by autumn, will suggest University leaders' view of the economic environment.

• Jobs in jeopardy. Even as administrators try to minimize growth in future costs (hence the salary freeze and limits on hiring),