



Campus GREEN Committee
Annual Report 2019-2020

Submitted by Maureen Dolan, Chair
August 2020

Campus Green Committee report (2019-2020) is organized as follows:

- **Introduction**
- **Background**
- **Purpose/Description**
- **Summary of Activities**
- **Membership (Spring 2020)**
- **Working Groups (Spring 2020)**

Attachments:

- Green Committee Meeting Agenda (12/3/19, 02/18/20, 03/12/20)
- Letter from M. Dolan to C. Butts (8/25/20) re. REV Campus Challenge
- **REV Campus Challenge ACHIEVER Badge**
- REVCC Welcome letter, mission and membership information
- Food Justice Garden (draft flyer)
- Transforming Our Tomorrow 2020 (UB competition sponsored by NYSERDA)
- NYS Organics Summit and Beyond Waste Student Summit (NYSAR3 flyer)

INTRODUCTION

In Fall 2019, President Butts authorized the re-establishment of the **Campus Green Committee** and directed Dr. Maureen Dolan (Mathematics/CIS) to organize the effort. During the fall semester, announcements and information about the committee were provided at Faculty and Senate meetings. Interested faculty were invited to join. Staff in key functional areas across all divisions were invited to participate. Interested students were referred to the committee by SGA, faculty and staff.

The Green Committee kick-off meeting was December 3, 2019. Following the standing-room-only attendance at kick-off meeting (in H-401), larger conference rooms were needed for subsequent meetings on February 18 and March 12, 2020. Detailed meeting agenda are attached to this report.

The committee's last face-to-face meeting on March 12th coincided with the statewide shutdown due to COVID-19. Progress on sustainability initiatives across the state have been impacted by the pandemic.

BACKGROUND

The rationale for a Green Committee on each SUNY campus was established in the Report of the SUNY Energy Task Force (June 2007), followed by enactment of **University Energy and Sustainability Policy** by the SUNY Board of Trustees (November 2007). This first system-wide policy to address climate change included ambitious targets for increased renewable energy and reduced greenhouse gases, and strengthened requirements for green buildings and operations. The **Policy** also called for a Sustainability Officer on each campus, and outlined transformational opportunities for green campus initiatives through research and training, curriculum, student engagement and public/private partnerships. (Dolan organized the first efforts for system-wide SUNY Sustainability (2007-2009), and also chaired Old Westbury's first Green Committee (2009-2010), convened in response to SUNY's new Energy and Sustainability Policy.)

More recently, the **Framework for a More Sustainable SUNY** was developed by the system-wide **SUNY Sustainability Coalition** at the behest of Chancellor Johnson (2018). This **Framework** aligns with New York State goals and mandates established for renewable energy and carbon footprint. The SUNY Framework is also responsive to local and global concerns regarding climate change, greenhouse gases, recycling and waste stream, food security, social justice and environmental justice.

It is noteworthy that sustainability targets and policies developed by the **SUNY Sustainability Coalition** are aligned with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** (UN SDGs). These 17 UN goals for sustainable development include targets and policies that address poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, diversity, clean air and water, sanitation, clean energy, climate change, innovation, sustainable cities, forests and ecosystems, biodiversity, justice, peace and global partnerships.

In addition to system-wide sustainability goals and mandates in SUNY, New York State continues to strengthen its policies and regulations in support of renewable energy, recycling and climate action. In November 2018, the NYS Legislature passed the ambitious “**Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act**” (CLCPA). This legislation codifies and accelerates NYS targets for wind and solar power, and establishes funding streams to support green communities and advance sustainability projects that address climate change as well as environmental justice.

The **CLCPA** builds upon Governor Cuomo's “**Reforming the Energy Vision**”, which is often simply referred to as “**REV**”. This calls for New York State's accelerated transition to renewable energy and reduced carbon emissions. Millions of dollars annually are available to support energy, environmental, and climate action projects in New York State, including projects related to **CLCPA** and **REV**. Such funds are administered by **NYSERDA** (the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority), with funding either appropriated legislatively or collected through the Systems Benefit Charge, assessed through all private utilities in the state.

Colleges and universities that have been approved for membership in “**REV Campus Challenge**” are eligible to apply for state funding of green campus projects, through a range of **NYSERDA** program opportunities. A successful application to join “**REV**” opens many doors and provides opportunities to fund capital projects and sustainability initiatives. Funds administered by **NYSERDA** support a broad array of energy and environmental projects, including solar and wind, clean energy in new or retrofit buildings, electric vehicles and charging stations, research, training, innovative curriculum, student

initiatives and community engagement.

PURPOSE / DESCRIPTION:

The Campus Green Committee is established to:

- Engage the campus community (interested faculty, students and staff) in initiatives that advance Old Westbury as a Green Campus, consistent with the college's Strategic Plan, Mission and Values.
- Pursue best practices for campus sustainability in higher education.
- Support SUNY and New York State goals and policies related to clean energy and climate action planning.
- Coordinate with the UN Academic Impact program, and include the college's UNAI coordinator as a committee member.
- Engage with regional, statewide and national organizations on energy, environment and climate change – including with the New York Coalition for Sustainability in Higher Education. (Note: NYCSHE membership is drawn from public and private colleges in all regions of the state. The organization disseminates information on sustainability models and polices; facilitates workshops, webinars and student activities; and promotes best practices to advance green campuses.)
- Engage with the SUNY Sustainability Coalition, SUNY system representatives, NYSERDA and REV Campus Challenge Coordinator.
- Organize committee activities through working groups that include (but are not be limited to): energy and carbon footprint, transportation, recycling and waste reduction, food sourcing and food security, water conservation, environmental stewardship, sustainability literacy and climate action.
- Raise awareness among campus constituencies of sustainability and climate change, including goals and actions that call for individual, collective or institutional responsibility.
- Explore opportunities for innovative projects, campus-wide initiatives, potential partnerships and possible external funding to advance clean energy and green campus initiatives that are aligned with the college's Mission and Values, such as in support of environmental stewardship, sustainability and social justice.
- Provide opportunities, consistent with models in higher education, for student research, student engagement and service-learning (such as green activities that may involve the Honors College, First-Year/CALL, independent study, work-study, etc.)
 - Provide periodic updates to the President, the Faculty Senate and other interested parties, and submit an annual report that includes committee membership and working groups, summary of committee activities, and description of any notable achievements, studies or recommendations.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

Meeting agenda attached to this report provide an overall summary of the issues and projects taken up by the committee in Spring 2020. Activities related to REV Campus Challenge continued into the summer. The chair also complied with a request from Arthur Angst (Working Group #7) to provide a statement describing the Campus Green Committee to the **Middle States Committee** and **Task Force Inventory**. A copy of this Green Committee annual report will also be provided to SPAAR Committee Co-Chairs

An initial focus of the committee was membership recruitment, identification of member's areas of interest, discussion of relevant SUNY and state policies, researching possible funding sources, and organizing the committee into appropriate working groups. This section of the annual report provides a brief description of activities undertaken by individuals or groups, including student members.

REV Campus Challenge (“Reforming the Energy Vision”):

- Maureen Dolan worked with the NYSERDA coordinator for REV, and consulted with SUNY Clean Energy Specialist and facilities staff (Tim McGarry and Scott Libert), to prepare an application on behalf of the college for the **REV Campus Challenge**.
- Per SUNY and NYS policies, in order to pursue state funding for clean energy or green campus initiatives related to new or retrofit buildings or to **CLCPA** (Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act), it is essential to apply for membership in the **REV Campus Challenge**.
- **SUNY Old Westbury was approved by NYSERDA as new REV member at ACHIEVER membership level.** Of the 18 campuses approved for membership in 2020, Old Westbury is one of only 4 campuses approved at the ACHIEVER membership level. (See attached **REV** materials and 8/25/20 letter from Dolan to Butts for additional details.)
- Evidence of our campus commitment to NYS energy and sustainability goals is supported by: the re-establishment of our Campus Green Committee; a history of energy efficiency and open-space conservation; commitment to achieving zero-net energy and installation of solar PV as part of recent Library renovation; participation in SUNY Sustainability Coalition and NYCSHE; and our innovative academic initiatives such as FYE/CALL, Honors College, United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), and inter-disciplinary sustainability curriculum.
- As an **ACHIEVER** in **REV Campus Challenge**, we affirm our commitment to clean renewable energy and climate action. And recognizing that environmental justice and social justice are intrinsically linked, our campus acts on the knowledge that the climate crisis (regionally and globally) disproportionately impacts poor people and communities of color.
- **Future Plans:** Seek possible support through **REV** for clean energy, climate action and green campus initiatives that serve to advance the college's mission and vision, in service to

sustainability, environmental stewardship and social justice. Several committee members, including Lorenz Neuwirth and Mike Kavic, expressed interest in developing proposals for external funding. Projects potentially supported through **NYSERDA REV** include research, training, student initiatives, solar PV, energy storage, and electric vehicle charging stations.

Recycling and Waste Minimization

- Information on best practices in recycling and waste minimization was disseminated and discussed by the committee. The chair shared reports provided by NYCSHE, including on student recycling competitions sponsored by **Recyclemania** and **NYSAR3** (New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling).
- Many committee members expressed interest in greater recycling on campus, and cited the benefits of participating in recognized recycling programs. Facilities staff commented on constraints related to custodial staffing, decreased markets for recycled materials, and fees associated with joining **NYSAR3**.
- Committee member Nikki Rodgers (Chemistry lab technician enrolled in graduate sustainability program at Johns Hopkins) took the lead in researching campus recycling models and possible funding streams. She reported that several private companies (including PepsiCo and Terracycle) sponsor recycling programs with cash rebates for their products sold at schools and colleges.
- Committee discussed information from NYCSHE and shared by the chair, on DEC Workshops, **2020 NYS Organics Summit** and **Beyond Waste Student Summit** hosted by **NYSAR3**.
- Committee member Zarrin Mahmud (SGA) attended the **Beyond Waste Student Summit** (virtually) on February 22. (see attachment for **NYSAR3** information)

Community Garden:

- Committee members worked with First-Year/CALL and the Honors College to plan and create an edible campus garden. **Phase One** of campus garden installation involved preparing a plot of land for an edible garden, to provide fresh and nutritionally dense food for Old Westbury community.
- Jessica Curran and Anthony Deluca initiated the **Food Justice Garden** project, with the guidance and leadership of master gardener Dylan Licopoli. (See attached draft flyer for additional details)
- Unfortunately, the planned Phase One installation of Food Justice Garden, originally scheduled for March 24, 2020, was postponed because of statewide shutdown due to COVID-19. Food Justice Garden activities are planned to resume in 2020-2021.
- Erin Toolis volunteered to take a lead role on project to address food security and food recovery. Such an activity may involve collaborative effort among community garden group, dining services, and group proposed to work on organic waste reduction.

- Other Green Committee members (Alireza Ebrahimi and Imtiaz Rayman) continued work on an established organic garden on campus, the **Sunchoke Project**. This nutritionally dense food, grown by indigenous peoples, is considered native to the region. The Sunchoke Project has been featured in local publications on Long Island.

Student Research Projects

- The chair provided information on **Transforming Our Tomorrow 2020**, a student competition hosted by University at Buffalo and sponsored by **NYSERDA**. Students across the state were invited to submit proposals to UB Sustainability, to “present their passion in creating a sustainable world through clean energy”. Special prize money was to be awarded for student project that considered the social impact of clean energy, e.g., implications for low-income communities, developing countries, gender equality and social equity. (see attached UB flyer)
- Three Green Committee student members (Ashley Alvarado, Ammar Koshk, Navpreet Banger) submitted a proposal to **Transforming Our Tomorrow 2020**. Their research project discussed climate change impacts in Egypt, and examined the implications of solar energy for low-income communities in developing nations. Maureen Dolan served as solar energy technical advisor for their project. Unfortunately, the student competition to be held at UB in late April was cancelled because of statewide shutdown due to COVID-19.
- Another student committee member (Imtiaz Rayman) developed a web platform for **OW Green**, with Alireza Ebrahimi serving as project advisor. This web project is ongoing and is informed by campus sustainability models in higher education.
- **Future Plans:** refine the design for **OW Green** and upload content to disseminate Green Committee information. Provide links to relevant sources, including NYCSHE, NYSERDA, SUNY Sustainability Coalition, UNAI, NYSDEC, NYSAR3 and other sources for sustainability, climate action and best practices in higher education.
- **Future Plans:** initiate/facilitate student projects through Campus Green Committee, for example, research related to campus mapping, tree canopy and carbon sequestration, sustainability audit, biodiversity, sole-source aquifer, open-space preservation. Enhance student engagement through referrals to Green Committee from FYE/CALL, CSTEP, the Honors College, et al. Explore potential for student service learning through green/sustainability internships.

United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI)

- The coordinator for United Nations Academic Impact (**UNAI**) program established at the college, Diana Papademas, was invited to join the Campus Green Committee. Collaboration between Old Westbury’s UNAI program and Green Committee serves to build synergies between initiatives with inter-connected goals.
- At the request of UNAI Coordinator, information on UN75 Dialogue Series (April 30th virtual): “COVID-19 Impact on Climate Change and Our Communities” was disseminated through the

Green Committee.

- The Green Committee will continue to coordinate with UNAI at Old Westbury, serving to advance the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** (UN SDGs), which are also supported by the work of the SUNY Sustainability Coalition.

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Preparation for Earth Day 50th Anniversary

- Committee members (Laura Anker, Jessica Curran, Maureen Dolan, Ali Ebrahimi, Chris Hartmann, Juan Pablo Galvis, Diana Papademas, Nikki Rogers, Usama Shaikh, Erin Toolis) participated in planning sessions for **Earth Day 50th Anniversary Teach-In**.
- The planned weeklong series of events, to include guest speakers, workshops and panels on environmental and/or climate change themes, was organized by Chris Hartmann, Tom Delgiudice and Amanda Frisken. The Campus Green Committee was asked to host a panel discussion for Earth Day, to raise awareness about sustainability and the work of the committee.
- Green Committee members also received information and discussed participation in regional and national events for Earth Day 50th Anniversary. One such event, promoted through NYSCHE, was a state-wide and national **Power Dialog** comprised of student videos about climate change.
- Unfortunately, events planned for the college's **Earth Day 50th Anniversary Teach-In**, as well as many planned regional and national events, were cancelled because of mandated shutdown due to COVID-19.

Campus Green Committee
Membership – Spring 2020
 (Updated March 12, 2020)

FACULTY

Maureen Dolan (Math/CIS); Green Committee, Chair 74601.1372@compuserve.com

dolanm@oldwestbury.edu

Laura Anker, Director, First Year Experience ankerl@oldwestbury.edu Jessica Curran, First Year

Experience (English) curranj@oldwestbury.edu Alireza Ebrahimi, School of Business

ebrahimia@oldwestbury.edu Juan Pablo Galvis, History & Philosophy (Chair)

galvisj@oldwestbury.edu Chris Hartmann, Public Health hartmannc@oldwestbury.edu Mike Kavic,

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& Philosophy mevissenr@oldwestbury.edu Lorenz Neuwirth, Psychology; SUNY Neuroscience

Research Institute neuwirthl@oldwestbury.edu Diana Papademas, Sociology; UN Academic Impact,

OW Coordinator papademasd@oldwestbury.edu Erin Toolis, Psychology toolise@oldwestbury.edu Kim

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STAFF/ADMINISTRATION

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STUDENTS

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Navpreet Banger, Biology major (SAS) nbanger1@oldwestbury.edu Ismail Gorul, Finance major (SOB) igorul@oldwestbury.edu Ammar Koshk, Student Govt. Assoc., Honors College, Business Club akoshk@oldwestbury.edu Zarrin Mahmud, Student Government Association zmahmud@oldwestbury.edu Navpreet K. Mann, Student Govt. Association nmann1@oldwestbury.edu Niko Nantsis, Honors College; District-1 NY-TACF, Co-director nikolaos.nantsis@gmail.com Andrew Payne, Accounting major (SOB) Andrewqpayne@gmail.com
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Campus Green Committee

Tentative Working Groups (Spring 2020)

For Discussion at March 12th Meeting of Green Committee:

The following groups are consistent with models in SUNY and higher education nationwide, for the organization of campus sustainability and green campus initiatives and operations. When the college's Green Committee was initially established (2009-2010), similar categories were used for undertaking a campus Sustainability Audit in which students worked alongside faculty and staff. **Green Committee** members may opt to participate in working group(s) of greatest personal interest or profession relevance. It is anticipated that each group will select group leader(s) or coordinator(s).

For each Working Group:

- a) Confirm membership and identify possible group leader(s)
- b) Identify current or planned **Activities 2020**.

- 1) Energy: energy use, emissions, renewable sources, carbon footprint **2) Recycling:**

recycling, paper/plastic/metal/glass waste stream, green materials **3) Transportation:**

campus vehicles, campus shuttle, mass transit, charging stations **4) Food:** food

sourcing, food recovery/donation, community garden, dining services **5) Water:** water

usage, conservation, glacial aquifer, pollutants

6) Land: environmental stewardship, trees, open space, wildlife habitat **7) Climate**

change: awareness, engagement, climate justice, community outreach **8) Sustainability**

literacy: models, environmental education, interconnected learning **9) Sustainability**

website: develop/manage **Green** campus website; other social media **10) Funding:**

initiating grants/partnerships in support of **Green** campus activities

For additional information please contact:

Dr. Maureen Dolan (Mathematics/CIS)

Parliamentarian, Faculty Senate

SUNY Old Westbury Green Committee, Chair

New York Coalition for Sustainability in Higher Education

NYCSHE Regional Representative for Long Island Region

74601.1372@compuserve.com or dolanm@oldwestbury.edu

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Campus GREEN Committee Kickoff Meeting

MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Campus Center H427

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. SUNY Sustainability Policy (Background)

- The Framework for a More Sustainable SUNY (2018)
- Energy and Sustainability: Transformational Opportunities (2007)

III. NYS Energy Goals/Climate Action

- Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (2018)

- REV Campus Challenge/NYSERDA Programs

IV. Building on Success: Advancing as a Green Campus

- Old Westbury Green Committee (2009-2010)
 - Sustainability Audit and Student Research
- STEM project: opportunity to align green building with academic innovation •

Focus on Mission: Environmental Stewardship, Sustainability, Social Justice

V. Next Steps

- Build Green Committee Membership
- Suggestions for 2020 Activities & Priorities
- Possible Initiative(s) for External Funding

Enclosures in Green Packet:

RIGHT Pocket: Kickoff Meeting Agenda

- Proposal to Re-establish Campus Green Committee (Purpose, Membership)
- Update for Faculty Senate on Campus Green Committee (10/18/19)
- Energy and Sustainability in SUNY and NYS (some sources of information)
- SUNY Sustainability Conference Bulletin (Saratoga Spring, November 2007)
- Old Westbury Green Committee: Proposal, Membership, Activities (2009-2010)
- Sustainability Audit/Student Application and Report to the Full Faculty (2010)

LEFT pocket:

- The Framework for a More Sustainable SUNY (2018)
- Implementing the Energy Vision: Sustainable CUNY (2019)
- United Nations Academic Impact Certificate (2017)
- AASHE Awards for Colleges and Universities (2019)
- NYS Public Hearing on Environmental Conservation in Higher Ed (11/13/19)

Agenda-GreenComm-KickoffMeeting-120319

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Campus GREEN Committee Meeting

MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

NAB 2034 (2:40-3:40pm)

I. Welcome New Members (5 minutes) • Request for Meeting Recorder volunteer
(Note-taker rotate each meeting)

II. Updates on SUNY and NYS mandates/programs, possible support (25 minutes)

- **REV Campus Challenge** (NYSERDA): “Reforming the Energy Vision”
<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/REV-Campus-Challenge/Membership-Information> •

RecycleMania (National competition colleges and universities) <https://recyclemania.org>

- **NYSAR³**(NYS Association for Reduction, Reuse & Recycling)
 - NYS Organics Summit 2020 (April 7-8, Albany)
<https://nysar3.org/page/nys-organic-summit-100.html>
 - “Beyond Waste” Student Summit” (Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020)
- Other time-sensitive events
 - **Transforming our Tomorrow 2020** (Student competition, UB Sustainability) ○
Power Dialog: April 7 webcast (student videos on climate solutions, deadline 3/15)

III. Organizing **GREEN** Committee into Working Groups *(see attached)* (20 minutes)

IV. Planning for Earth Day 50th Anniversary (5 minutes)

- SUNY Old Westbury Teach-In

V. Next Steps/Announcements (5 minutes)

Attachments to 2/18/20 Agenda:

1. Membership Spring 2020
2. Proposed Working Groups
3. REV information (email from MD to COB, 2/12/20)
4. NYSAR³ Winter 2020 Newsletter
5. Beyond Waste Student Summit (flyer)
6. Transforming our Tomorrow 2020 (flyer)

Contact for additional information:

Dr. Maureen Dolan (Mathematics/CIS)
 SUNY College at Old Westbury
 Parliamentarian, Faculty Senate

Campus Green Committee, Chair

New York Coalition for Sustainability in Higher Education
NYCSHE Regional Representative for Long Island Region
 Email: 74601.1372@compuserve.com

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MEETING AGENDA Thursday, March 12, 2020 (2:40-3:40pm) Library Conference Room: L-316

I. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Request for Meeting Recorder volunteer (Note-taker rotate each meeting)
- Review Meeting Notes of February 18th

II. Updates on REV and other green programs (15 minutes)

- **REV Campus Challenge**/NYSERDA (Maureen)
<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/REV-Campus-Challenge/Membership-Information>
- **Possible Recycling initiatives** (Nikki)

1. Terra Cycle (possible refund programs): <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades> 2. PepsiCo Recycling Rally: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades/recycleralley#rewards> • Other Updates and time-sensitive events
- “Transforming our Tomorrow 2020” UB Sustainability (Ammar, Ashley, Navpreet)
 - Power Dialog 2020: April 7 NYS Webcast (student videos on climate solutions)
 - AASHE Workshop: Sustainability Across the Curriculum (apply by March 15)
<https://www.aashe.org/calendar/sustainability-across-the-curriculum-leadership-workshop-2020/>
 - NYSAR³ Organics Summit 2020 (April 7-8, Albany)
<https://nysar3.org/page/nys-organic-summit-100.html>

III. Organizing **GREEN** Committee into Working Groups (see attached) (25 minutes) a.

- Confirm membership each Green Group
- b. Identify Working Group leader/co-leaders
- c. Identify current/planned Working Group Activities 2020

IV. Planning for Earth Day 50th Anniversary (10 minutes)

- d. SUNY Old Westbury Teach-In (Chris)
- e. Green Committee Panel Discussion (Maureen)
- f. Food Justice Garden (Jesse)

V. Next Steps/Announcements (5 minutes)

Attachments to 2/18/20 Agenda:

- 1. Meeting Notes of Feb.18, 2020
- 2. Membership Spring 2020
- 3. Organizing Working Groups
- 4. Power Dialog 2020 information
- 5. Sustainability across the Curriculum workshop

Contact for additional information:

Dr. Maureen Dolan (Mathematics/CIS)
SUNY College at Old Westbury
Parliamentarian, Faculty Senate
Campus Green Committee, Chair
New York Coalition for Sustainability in Higher Education
NYCSHE Regional Representative for Long Island Region
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Campus GREEN Committee

TO: Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III
Office of the President

CC: Dr. Duncan Quarless
Acting Provost and Senior Vice President

FROM: Dr. Maureen Dolan, Chair
Campus Green Committee

DATE: August 25, 2020

SUBJ: **REV Campus Challenge 2020**

I hope that you and your family are well. During this period of unprecedented challenges, it is my pleasure to be able to deliver some very good news.

Following your authorization to submit an application to **NYSERDA** for the **REV Campus Challenge**, I worked with the **NYSERDA** Coordinator to complete the REV application process on March 13. When New York State shut down in mid-March because of Covid-19, the review process was somewhat delayed as **NYSERDA** staff transitioned to working remotely. This summer the list of campuses approved for new membership was announced at a REV Campus Challenge Workshop hosted by **NYSERDA**.

Old Westbury has been approved by NYSERDA for membership in the REV Campus Challenge. On the basis of evidence provided in our application, our membership was approved at the **ACHIEVER** level. Of the 18 campuses (public or private) accepted by **NYSERDA** as new members in REVCC this year, Old Westbury is one of only 4 campuses approved this year as a new member at ACHIEVER level.

Evidence of our campus commitment to NYS energy/sustainability goals is supported by: the re-establishment of our Campus Green Committee; a history of energy efficiency and open-space conservation; a commitment to achieving zero-net energy and installation of solar PV as part of Library renovation; participation in SUNY Sustainability Coalition and New York Coalition for Sustainability in Higher Education (NYCSHE); as well as innovative academic initiatives such as FYE/CALL, Honors College, United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) and inter-disciplinary sustainability curriculum.

As an **ACHIEVER in the REV Campus Challenge**, we affirm our commitment to clean renewable energy and to climate action planning. Also, recognizing that environmental justice and social justice are intrinsically linked, our campus acts on the knowledge that the climate crisis (regionally and globally) disproportionately impacts poor people and communities of color.

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New York State created and funded the REV Campus Challenge five years ago, to support Governor Cuomo's "**Reforming the Energy Vision**" program. Statewide, campus membership in REVCC now consists of 61 Participants, 41 Achievers and 26 Leaders.

REV membership opens many doors and provides numerous opportunities to fund capital projects and green campus initiatives. Substantial funds administered by **NYSERDA** support a broad array of projects: including **solar and wind, clean energy in new or retrofit buildings, electric vehicles and charging stations, research, training, education, student initiatives, and community engagement**. Campus and regional projects may be eligible for funding through SBC or through appropriations in support of CLCP (Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, 2019)

As an **ACHIEVER in the REV Campus Challenge**, Old Westbury will have the opportunity to publicize on NYSERDA's website our notable green initiatives that are completed, in-progress, or currently planned. Membership in REVCC provides a platform for advancement in renewable energy and other climate initiatives, such as those in support of zero-net energy, reduced carbon footprint, and the Governor's blueprint ("REV") for a green economy.

I have included NYSERDA materials related to our acceptance into REV Campus Challenge, including a **Welcome Letter** and selected slides from recent NYSERDA REVCC workshop. Most prominent is the official **REV Campus Challenge Achiever "BADGE"** - provided by NYSERDA in pdf, JPEG and PNG formats. Old Westbury now has approval to use and display this **REV Achiever BADGE** on our college website, in promotional materials, and in various other reports and publications.

In addition to the attachments related to REV Campus Challenge (#1-2 listed below), I am also submitting **Campus Green Committee** annual report and relevant attachments (#3-4 listed below). I will provide the Office of the President (via USPS) with a hard copy of all **Green** materials enclosed with this letter. Since your authorization to re-establish our **Campus Green Committee** enabled our successful application to NYSERDA for REV membership as an **ACHIEVER** campus, I thank you for advancing the college towards a greener future, and appreciate the opportunity to spearhead this important effort. And as I recall your comments at faculty meetings last year about my longstanding energy focus, I am reminded that my very first conversation with you upon your arrival in September 1999 was to advocate for renewable energy. *Tempus fugit!*

Congratulations on your two decades at the helm, and best wishes as you transition to a rewarding new phase of life.

Enclosures with this letter:

1. **REV Achiever Badges** (pdf and JPEG)
2. NYSERDA REV Welcome letter, mission/vision and membership information
3. **Campus Green Committee** 2019-2020 Annual Report (Introduction, Background, Purpose/Description, Summary of Activities, Membership and Working Groups)
4. Meeting agenda and misc. attachments to Green Committee report (listed in report)

Memo-MD-CButts-REV-Approval-NYSERDA-August2020