

**SUNY College at Old Westbury**  
**Faculty Senate**  
**March 16, 2018**

**Resolution on Parking Plan Concerns**

**Whereas**, SUNY Old Westbury is a dynamic and diverse public liberal arts college that fosters academic excellence through close interaction among students, faculty and staff. Old Westbury weaves the values of integrity, community engagement, and global citizenship into the fabric of its academic programs and campus life. In an environment that cultivates critical thinking, empathy, creativity and intercultural understanding, **we endeavor to stimulate a passion for learning and a commitment to building a more just and sustainable world. The College is a community of students, teachers, staff, and alumni bound together in mutual support, respect, and dedication to the Mission)** SUNY Old Westbury College Website/About/Strategic Plan, 3/7/18.

**Whereas**, we agree to conduct campus-wide business adhering to the following set of shared principles:

- **Liberal Education.** Old Westbury promotes rigorous intellectual inquiry, grounded in ethical and civic values, that connects learning in the classroom with engagement in the community. Through an integrative curriculum, innovative pedagogy, and small classes we provide a transformative educational experience that fosters the capacity for life-long intellectual and personal growth.
- **Integrity.** *Because all human relationships, as well as a just society, rely on the principles of truth, trust and fairness, Old Westbury is committed to the highest ethical standards in academic, institutional and community life.*
- **Participatory Governance.** *To exemplify in all College policies the values we espouse, Old Westbury upholds the principles of transparency, accountability and democracy in every aspect of governance and planning conducted by students, staff, faculty, administration, trustees and friends of the College alike.*
- **Intercultural Understanding.** Old Westbury promotes an inclusive environment and critical awareness of the multiplicity and range of human perspectives and identities (including race, ethnicity, religion, gender, class, sexuality, age, and (dis)ability, among others) through the interactions of students, faculty and staff within its diverse learning community.
- **Sustainability.** *The campus community is dedicated to the stewardship of our environment and fragile ecosystem and to equity in the allocation and preservation of shared resources—such as air, water, and land—on campus, on Long Island, and in the larger world.*
- **Social Justice.** *Old Westbury promotes social justice and equality in living and learning through its historic commitment to educational empowerment, diversity, access, equity, self-determination, community activism and responsible global citizenship (oldwestbury/president's office/strategic plan).*

**Whereas**, The Plan for additional parking indicates the clear cut of trees and increasing of hardscape on multiple surfaces on drain sensitive recharge land, and does not include a carbon footprint analysis with offset plan; and

**Whereas**, the Faculty has not been meaningfully included in the vetting and processes arriving at critical decisions about the impact of, alternatives to, and siting of The Plan; and,

**Whereas,** faculty serving in various capacities have requested information about The Plan processes and decisions and requested more meaningful participation in the steps leading to the Plan; and

**Whereas,** the NYSDEC requires that all plans for siting of projects weigh the impacts of environment with the social and financial costs of a project, at least, equally; and,

**Whereas,** the college's Mission requires advancing a more environmental sustainability world, and the College Values state that our engagement in all facets of the development of the college be accomplished via meaningful participatory governance, transparency, integrity, inclusion so that all processes and projects undertaken at the college for the development and betterment of the college community follow fully transparent and fully inclusive processes, with full disclosure and discussion about the best practice processes and decisions; and,

**Whereas,** The SUNY Board of Trustees empowers the Faculty on each campus to select and charge their faculty selected representatives to be meaningfully consulted in all matters affecting their work and delivery of their services; and,

**Whereas,** the decision to alter natural land features, to cut trees and to place hardscape on hydrologically and geologically sensitive lands should be encumbered by Best Practices in technology, science, and governance; and,

**Whereas,** the Faculty have been asked to provide input into The Plans as indicated on the maps and descriptive material and EIS Short Form circulated on March 2, 2018 and for which the Faculty is invited to respond by March 29, 2018; and,

**Whereas,** the Faculty have not received any official information, nor been involved in processes for determining the design of or exclusion from a full SEQR process; and,

**Whereas,** The Plan raised serious questions and concerns prior to its release which have yet to be resolved, about processes, data and stakeholder inclusion; also, in its review of the circulated documents, the Executive Committee finds remaining concerns and questions about transparency, suitability and decision-making processes; and,

**Therefore Be It Resolved,** that the Faculty Senate of the State University of New York at Old Westbury requests that all final decisions for locating and initiating the construction of additional parking spaces on the campus be deferred until the processes resulting in the decision be evaluated for Best Fit and Best Outcome to meet the expectations of the College Mission and Values for community engagement, transparency and best practices of sustainable environmental decisions and operations for the specific and sensitive land to be affected by The Plan; and,

**Be It Further Resolved,** that financial transparency is necessary for Best Practice decision-making, and,

**Further Resolved,** that the Faculty reserves the option to circulate this Preamble, with and without this Resolution, to SUNY campus units via its Campus Governance Leaders and the SUNY University Faculty Senate and UUP, and to appropriate government agencies relevant to this decision and to the campus administrative response.

**Approved by the SUNY College at Old Westbury Faculty Senate, March 16, 2108.**