



**Dormitory Authority**

*College of Old Westbury*

*Thomas J. Murphy, Executive Director*

April 2, 2001

Mr. James Llana  
Secretary to the Faculty Senate  
Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate  
State University of New York  
College at Old Westbury  
Old Westbury, N.Y. 11568

Dear Mr. Llana:

Thank you for your letter of March 8<sup>th</sup> concerning the dormitory project at the College of Old Westbury.

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, the Dormitory Authority (Authority) informed the head of the design/build team, The Vanderbilt Group LLC (Vanderbilt), that it had been terminated from the project effective February 9<sup>th</sup>. The Authority had previously notified Vanderbilt on December 5, 2000, of our intention to terminate the \$27.9 million contract for the Old Westbury project unless Vanderbilt could demonstrate that it should not be terminated. We further attempted to negotiate an assignment of the contract to another firm, which would have allowed construction to re-start at an earlier date. However, these talks were unsuccessful, and Vanderbilt was terminated.

Since then, we have been working with Travelers Casualty & Surety, the insurance company underwriting the performance bond guaranteeing completion of the project. Through Travelers, we hope to reinvigorate the project to provide students at SUNY Old Westbury with the dormitory rooms they need. I had hoped the conversations with the surety would have progressed further by this time so that I could have responded sooner to your letter.

Procurement of the design-build team for this project followed the Authority's policies and procedures to ensure competition and deliver quality construction within the project budget. A professional committee of campus and Authority staff reviewed the proposals and interviewed the teams considered to be offering the best proposals to meet SUNY Old Westbury's goals. The committee unanimously recommended Vanderbilt.

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