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## Campus Green Committee

### Overview for Faculty Governance Orientation

September 23, 2022

#### *Who and What is the Campus GREEN Committee?*

- **GREEN** is a college-wide committee of faculty, staff and students who engage in a range of activities and initiatives that advance Old Westbury as a Green Campus, consistent with the college's **Strategic Plan, Mission** and **Values**.
- Faculty and staff **volunteer** for membership or may be **invited** to join. The committee includes more than 30 faculty and staff, collaborating across disciplines and divisions.
- Student members are appointed by **SGA** or may be **recommended** by faculty, on the basis of applied learning, research or co-curricular green activities.

#### *What other organizations and programs does GREEN coordinate with?*

- We support **SUNY Sustainability** policies, which are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**).
- We support New York State policies related to clean energy and climate action, including goals established in the **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act**.
- We work with **GreenNY** leadership team and **NYS Climate Council** to explore clean energy and green materials initiatives that help advance OW as a green campus.
- We coordinate with the college's **United Nations Academic Impact** program (**UNAI**).
- We engage with First-Year/CALL, Honor's College, ESM club, and SOB Green Nudges.
- We engage with **NYCSHE** (New York Coalition for Sustainability in Higher Education) and its state-wide working group **JEDI** (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion).
- We work with **NYSERDA** (New York State Energy Research & Development Authority). As a member of NYSERDA **REV Campus Challenge**, the reporting of **Green Committee** annual activities is a primary basis for Old Westbury's status as an **ACHIEVER campus**.

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**NOTE: SUNY Sustainability Policy**, formally enacted by SUNY Board of Trustees in November 2007, called for each campus to establish a **Green Committee** and sustainability office to engage the campus community and to advance energy efficiency and green initiatives in support of campus, SUNY and NYS energy/sustainability goals. Old Westbury's first **Green Committee** was convened ad hoc in 2009-2010, and recognized by **SUNY Sustainability 2011** as a model for campus sustainability. Our current **Green Committee** was established in 2019-2020 through joint effort of the President's Office and faculty governance.

### Some Areas of GREEN committee activity:

- Energy Conservation, Renewables, Carbon Footprint
- Organic/Community Garden, Food Security
- Education/Outreach (environmental sustainability, climate justice)
- Student Engagement, Applied Learning, Research
- Recycling, Waste reduction (propose improvements)
- Transportation (EV charging stations, campus vehicles)
- Environmental Stewardship (open space, aquifer, ecology)
- Raising Awareness, Communication (develop green website)
- Funding opportunities, community partnerships

### Some details on various GREEN activities proposed for 2022-2023:

- **GreenNY - NYS Climate Council:**
  - **GreenNY** leadership (NYPA, NYSEDA, DEC, OGS) contacted **Green Committee** chair to help organize **GreenNY** initiative at Old Westbury. **Kickoff meeting** June 23rd included facilities, grounds, capital planning, purchasing, ASC, President's Office, and green committee chair.
  - **GreenNY** provides technical assistance and financing to help NYS businesses, institutions and communities achieve **green procurement, green buildings and operations**, and a range of services to access **renewable energy** to meet the emissions targets of NYS Climate Act.
  - Governor Hochul's **Executive Order 22** (Sept. 21, 2022) accelerates the targets for state agencies – which includes SUNY – to achieve 100% renewable supply of electricity by 2030.
  - Explore GreenNY opportunities to support **Solar PV, EV recharging stations**, green policies and practices, green materials, recycling/plastic waste, **energy studies on telecommuting**.
- **NYSEDA REV Campus Challenge:**
  - **Climate Action Plan:** explore **NYSEDA** support for OW climate action plan; refer to models on other SUNY campuses. Opportunity for student engagement, multi-disciplinary research.
  - Develop proposals under **NYSEDA** funding programs to **increase** renewable energy and **reduce** carbon emissions, to advance Old Westbury's mission, values and strategic goals, in support of **SUNY Sustainability** and **NYS Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act**.
  - Explore initiatives through **NYSEDA Stakeholder Pool for Disadvantaged Communities** (DAC), such as education and outreach to under-served communities on Long Island to ensure **environmental justice**, public health benefits and **"just transition"** to clean energy; enhance engagement with community groups such as **Long Island Progressive Coalition**.
  - **Carbon footprint:** explore existing models to evaluate campus progress towards SUNY and NYS sustainability and emissions goals. Opportunity for student engagement and research.
- **Faculty and Student Engagement:**
  - Develop projects/**co-curricular activities**, e.g., sustainability themes, environmental justice, climate change awareness, energy impacts of screen time, community outreach, etc.
  - **Student-led initiatives**, e.g., energy/water conservation, zero waste, resident hall contests.
  - Prepare/participate in **Earth Day** presentations, panels, webinars, conferences and events.
  - Opportunities for undergraduate research, applied learning, **Research Day** presentations.
  - **Carbon sequestration study:** mapping project to evaluate carbon absorbed by mature trees on Old Westbury campus; opportunity for student engagement and research.

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### Interested?

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