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David E. Van Zandt President

July 27, 2011

STARS

Steering Committee

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

213 ½ North Limestone

Lexington, Kentucky 40507

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

I am delighted to affirm that The New School's submission for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is an accurate representation of our campus sustainability initiatives. The New School's students, faculty, and staff are dedicated in learning, teaching and practicing sustainability as a means to creating positive social change. We are proud to be a charter participant in this important initiative.

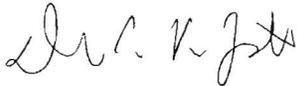
The New School is uniquely positioned in its quest for a STARS rating. As an urban campus with access to the best public transit system in the world, The New School has a carbon footprint among the lowest of universities in New York City. And this year began with the publication of our first Climate Action Plan for the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), in which we pledge to become a carbon neutral institution by 2040. We also continue our commitment to reducing carbon emissions thirty percent in ten years as a University Challenge Partner, an initiative started by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

The university is addressing many environmental issues critical to New York City, such as acknowledging the local garbage crisis by expanding our composting program, and targeting the city's combined sewer overflow issues with a state-of-the-art blackwater system to be installed in our new, currently under-construction LEED-NC Gold University Center.

The New School is also furthering sustainability beyond just its operations. The Tishman Environmental Design Center applies a multi-disciplined approach to sustainability and couples classroom experience with work in the field. This year marked the introduction of a graduate degree in sustainability – an MS in Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management – as well as the John L. Tishman Scholarships for Sustainable Development, Design, and Construction, providing one million dollars for students whose work advances a sustainable urban environment. In addition, The New School is proud to be one of the twenty finalists in the prestigious Solar Decathlon 2011, an international competition hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy. And at Commencement 2011, nearly four hundred students (12 percent of graduates) signed the new Graduation Pledge, a commitment to improving society and the environment through their careers.

It is an honor for The New School to be a member of AASHE and we are pleased to present this submission to the committee, peer institutions, and the general public. I congratulate our students, faculty, and staff who demonstrate through their varied and unique efforts a passionate commitment to sustainability. We look forward to continued measurable growth and improvement in this area. STARS will provide us with the road map to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David E. Van Zandt".

David E. Van Zandt