

Implementing Sustainability,

or How Fast Can it be Done?

UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO



By: Jose J. Valencia

What is a Green Student Fee?

- A Green Student Fee would be a dedicated student fee used for sustainability initiatives on campus.
- Under this system, students pay a small additional fee each year or semester to generate a pool of funds for explicit use on sustainability initiatives.
- This tool allows students to proactively invest in the transition to sustainable operations and development in the present.

Green Fees at other Universities

Illinois

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: \$5 (\$14*)

Northeastern Illinois University: \$3

Southern Illinois University Carbondale: 83¢ per credit hour (max. \$10)

Nationwide

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill: \$4

University of California, Berkeley: \$5

University of California, Los Angeles: \$4

University of Oregon: \$2

*Pending \$9 fee increase that was voted on in UofI's last student elections



Potential of the Fee



According to Fall 2009 admission statistics, UIC had enrolled 20,120 full-time students (undergraduate, graduate and professional) Using this figure as an estimate:

- A \$3/semester fee would roughly generate \$75,000 in revenue each semester and \$150,000 annually

What Can the Green Fee Fund?

- Increased solar panel installations
- Green roofs/vertical gardening
- Native landscaping
- Improvements to campus recycling programs
- More bike racks on campus, designated bike routes

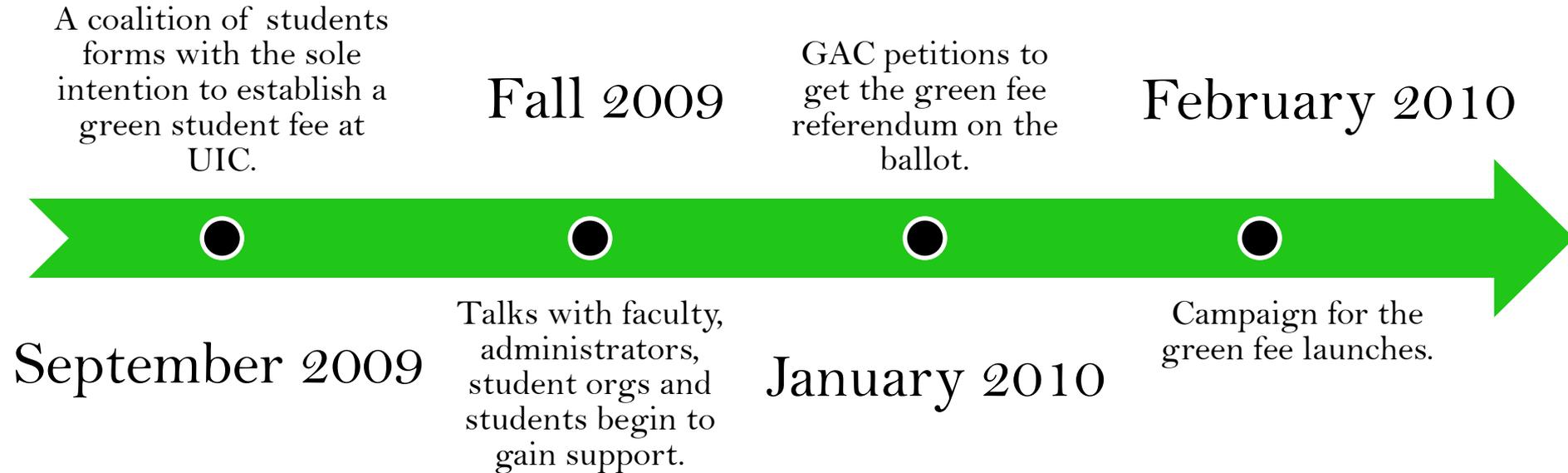


A Call to Action

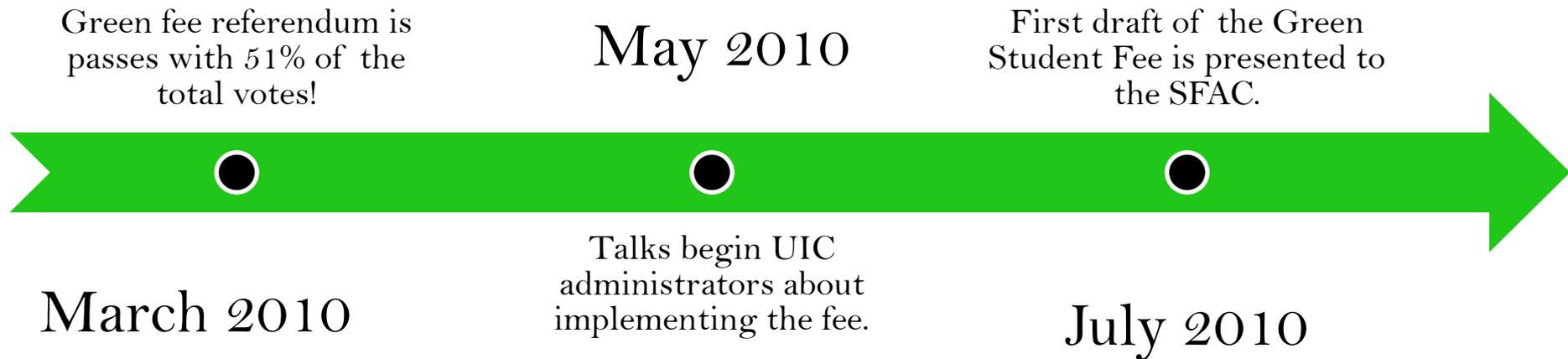
- A coalition of students from different backgrounds forms as a subcommittee of the Undergraduate Student Government with the sole purpose of passing and implementing a green student fee at UIC.
- The coalition's function as a subcommittee of USG gives the newly formed group credibility amongst students and administrators as well as access to resources a departmentally sanctioned student organization possesses.



Timeline (i)



Timeline (ii)

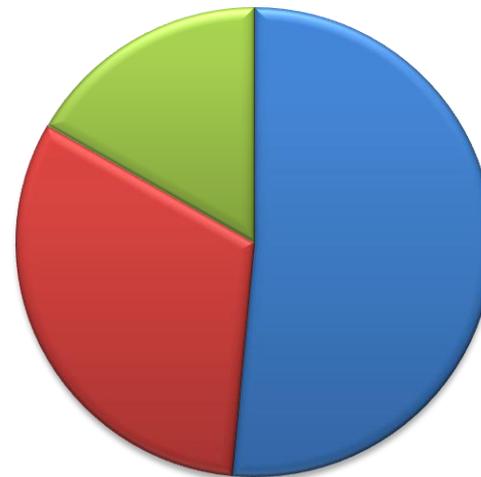


The Referendum

- As Appeared on the Ballot: *"Do you support the creation of a new refundable student fee that would be directed toward green initiatives including the creation of a student Green Action Committee?"*

- 1,978 Total Votes

Referendum Results



■ Yes: 51.4

■ No: 38.6

■ None of the Above:
16.7

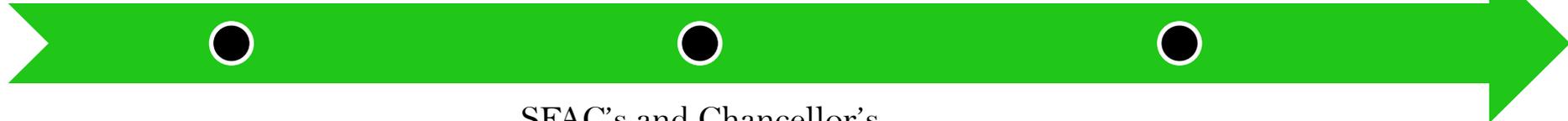
Timeline ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾

or, What Happens Next?

Meetings continue between administrators and GAC.

Spring 2011

Green Fee's implementation into UIC's 2011-2011 Tuition and Fees



Fall 2010

SFAC's and Chancellor's approval is required before moving on to be voted upon by the Board of Trustees.

Fall 2011



UIC Mission Statement

“To address the challenges and opportunities facing not only Chicago but all Great Cities of the 21st century, as expressed by our Great Cities Commitment.”

Overview

- Partner with an existing institutionalized structure such as student government or student senate.
- Meet with administrators and faculty.
- Have a plan of attack (projects, campaigning, etc.)
- Large voter turnout.
- Continue talks with university administration.



Questions?



"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better – it's not."

- Dr. Seuss, from *The Lorax*