



Green Events Commission
Washington University in St. Louis

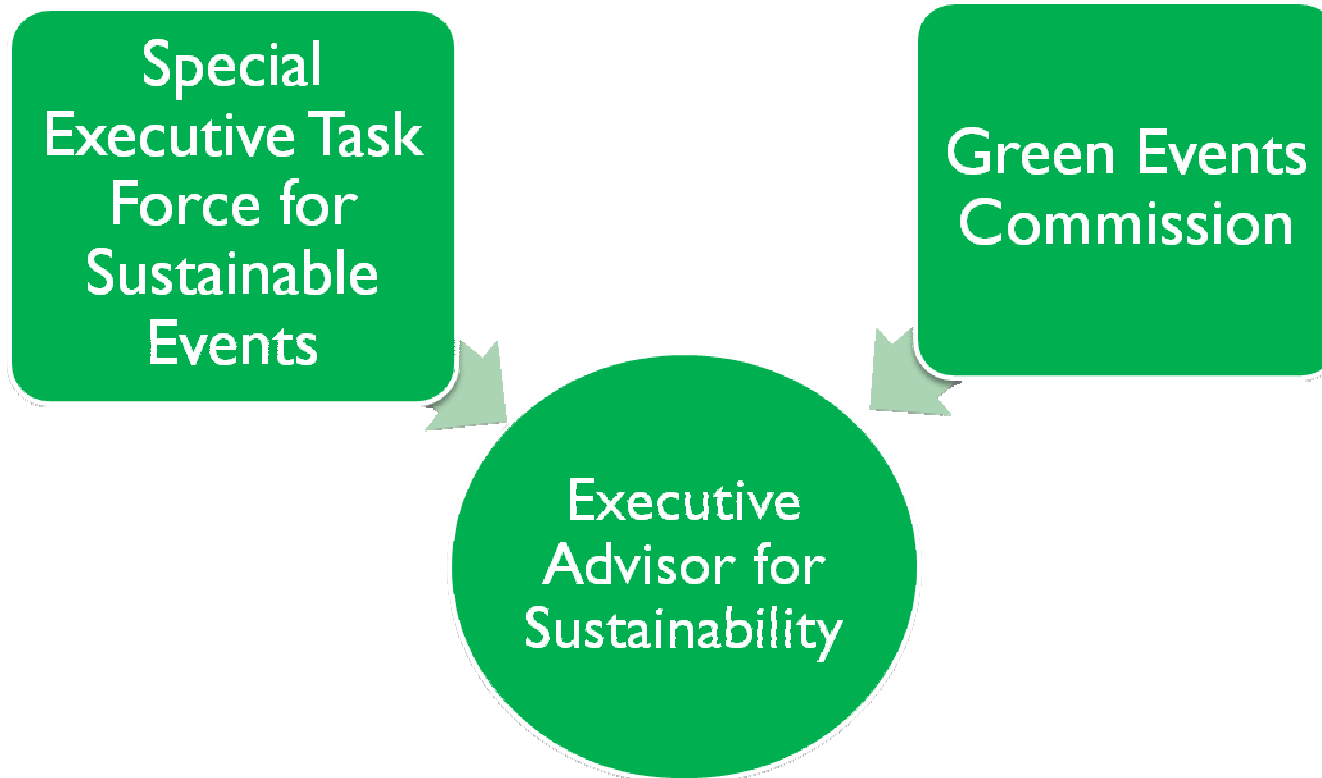
Will Fischer, Executive Advisor for Sustainability
Anna Li, Consulting Chair

How did it start?

- ▶ Last year, Green Action, a student environmental advocacy group, advised various student event planners, but no framework or procedure existed for these recommendations
- ▶ Talked with Wash U Student Union president Jeff Nelson about lack of precedent
- ▶ Executive Order 908161 of August 16, 2009



Executive Order 908161



Environmental sustainability is an issue that Student Union must remain invested in. Seeking to improve Washington University's commitment to sustainability will provide a direct benefit to the daily experience of students as well as providing a catalyst to renew student activism for both global and local change.



Special Executive Task Force for Sustainable Events (SETSE)

- ▶ In charge of drafting legislation to regulate sustainability of student group events
 - ▶ Evaluate research & recommendations from the GEC
 - ▶ Advise the president
 - ▶ Put together a proposal for Student Union Senate
- ▶ Consists of student representatives from Treasury, Senate, the VPs of Programming & Administration, the Executive Advisor for Sustainability, and numerous student groups



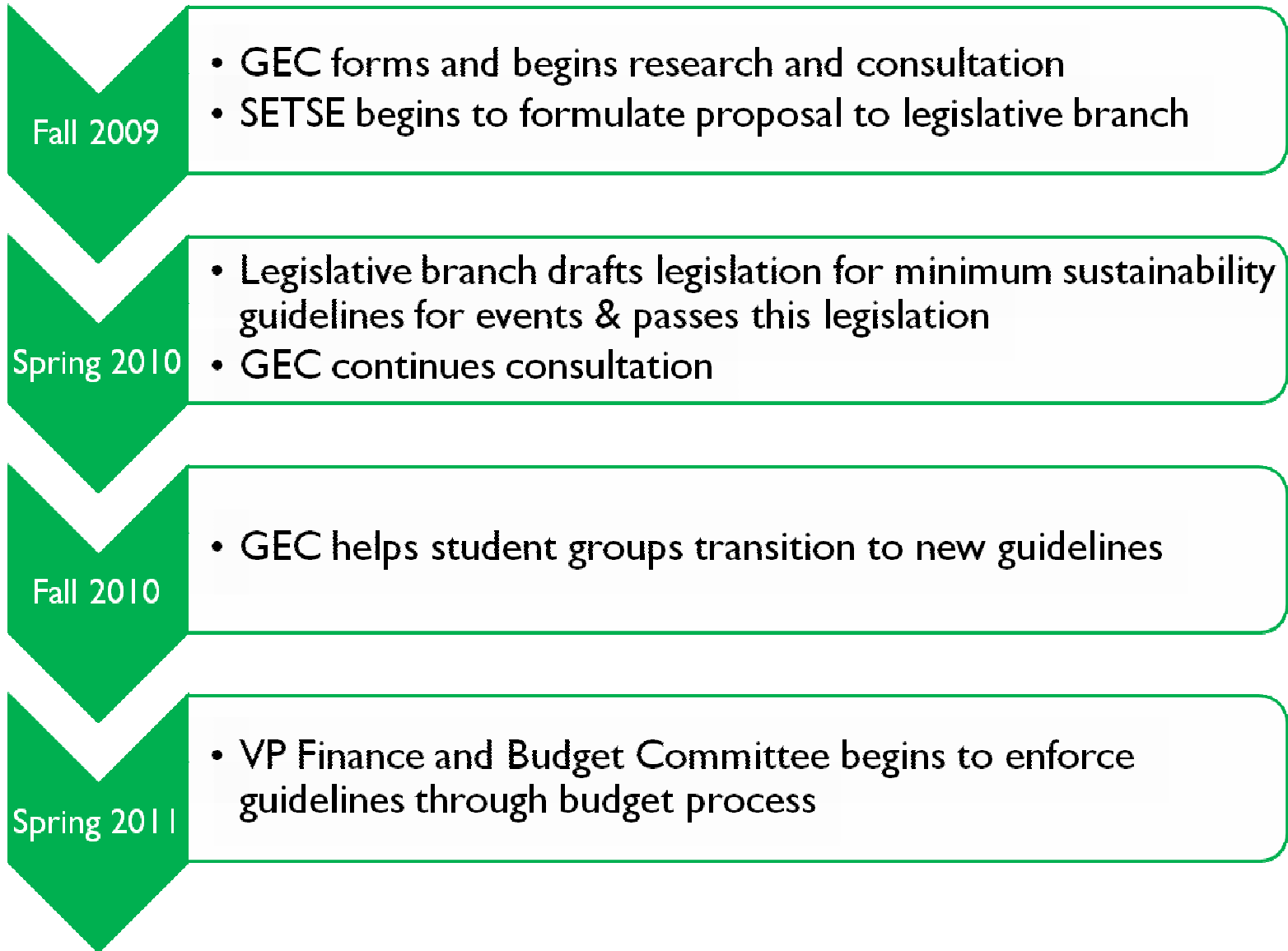
Green Events Commission (GEC)

- ▶ **Three committees:**

- ▶ **Consulting:** working directly with event planners through liaisons
- ▶ **Research:** finding out what works & what doesn't, contacting organizers of festivals and similar groups
- ▶ **Outreach:** publishing research and making it available to all on campus, promoting awareness of GEC on campus



Timeline



Consulting Procedure

1. Fact-finding meeting with student group
 - A. Continue fluid communication with student group
 2. Discuss event at a GEC meeting
 3. Determine what research needs to be done to provide recommendation
 - A. Assign necessary research items to Research Committee
 4. Set deadline for delivery of recommendation
 5. Develop a draft recommendation
 6. Review draft in GEC meeting
 7. Submit revised recommendation to student group
 8. Ensure all research and recommendations are recorded for future reference
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Guiding Principles

- ▶ Where is this coming from?
- ▶ How was it made?
- ▶ Where might it end up?



Fact-Finding Meeting

- ▶ **Logistics:**

- ▶ number of attendees
- ▶ are food/drinks served?
- ▶ PR procedure for event
- ▶ how power is used at the event
- ▶ is construction involved?
- ▶ are “give-aways” used?
- ▶ ...try to get an idea of what materials are necessary for the event



Fact-Finding Meeting (cont.)

- ▶ **History:**
 - ▶ history of the event including past attempts to be more sustainable
- ▶ **Group Structure:**
 - ▶ explanation of the structure of the group, including who is responsible for different aspects of the event
- ▶ **Cost:**
 - ▶ cost-breakdown of the event and group budget information



Example Recommendations

- I. Event Details
 - A. Date: 11/7/09 from 3 pm – 3 am
 - B. Setup timeline: Fri. 6-10 pm, Sat. starts from 7 am.
 - C. People: > 100 teams
 - D. Timeline:
 - 1. Oct.8 – Registration
 - 2. Meetings w/ Bon Appetit- **participate in this meeting**
- II. Energy Use
 - A. Lights: controlled by AC
 - B. Sound equipment and how to manage electricity
 - a. Dan Zernico is the DJ
 - C. Future: possibility of changing sound company
- III. Waste/Recycling
 - A. Recycling bin locations: 1 at concession, 2 in food area
 - B. **Signs on recycling bins**
 - C. Announce reminders to recycle during event
 - D. Incentives for picking up recycling
 - E. Boxes for moral captains donated from Utrucking >>> recycle them
 - F. **They don't have recycling bins figured out yet!**
- IV. Materials
 - A. T-shirts: American Apparel (organic, US-made)
 - 1. Appeal will be processed before end of month (~ 2 wks. Mid-Sept).
 - 2. Ordering in October (after dancer registration)
 - 3. Given to team captains in re-usable grocery bags
 - a. **Can we find someone to donate them?**
 - B. Food
 - 1. Three meals are served:
 - a. Dinner and dessert: donated by Bon Appetit
 - 1. Starting 1 hr later than normal to reduce meals required
 - b. 1 pizza break- **local catering?**
 - 2. Snacks:
 - a. Granola bars - **local vendor to provide granola bars instead of Sam's Club**
 - b. Chips – buy in big bags in bowls
 - c. **Are there any Sam's Club items we can recommend that are more 'green'?**
 - C. Drinks
 - 1. Concession stand in AC
 - a. Sodas: buying smaller coke cans to reduce waste
 - b. Get syrup donated or buy a soda fountain? (asking Nadeem)
 - 2. Water
 - a. Donated by Wydown Water
 - b. **What kind of plastic cups are they using?**
 - D. SIGG bottles

Green Action

WILD Sustainability Plan

Recommendations for Team 31

Dance Marathon

Walk In Lay Down (W.I.L.D.)



Contact Information

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