The Giannini Foundation at 76

Presentation to the Annual Meeting of the GF

David Zilberman
Director
Perspective on Our Mission

- Building Human Capital
- Conducting Research
- Outreach
- Assembly of, and Access to, Agricultural Data and Knowledge

... in Agricultural and Resource Economics with an emphasis on California
Activities

- Building Human Capital - *Student Support*
- Conducting Research - *Mini-Grants*
- Outreach - *ARE Update, Publications, and Conferences*
- Assembly of, and Access to, Agricultural Data and Knowledge - *Libraries*
Performance

- Building Human Capital: A+
- Conducting Research: A quality and flexibility
  Are we as relevant as can be?
- Outreach - ARE Update: A needs more visibility
  - Publications: B- few home runs, many strikeouts
  - Conferences: A not enough

- Assembly of, and Access to, Agricultural Data and Knowledge - Libraries: A
  - Has been an A performer for a long time.
  - How does it fit in the Internet and web era?
Performance (Cont.)

• Giannini allows our two departments to be the best, but the Giannini brand is losing its luster in California.
• Maybe it is OK. There are complements.
  - the Ag Issues Center
  - the Executive Education programs

*How do we fit in?*

- Our relative advantage is creation and dissemination of ideas and economic analysis
  - Not consensus building
  - Not leadership education

- Need to identify cost-effective activities and emphasize them
Perceived Successes

- Mini-grants and student support
- **ARE Update**
- Siebert books on economics of California ANR, McCalla-Johnston GF Special Report on the future of CA agriculture
- Conferences: the 75th, Zwane’s Sacramento Workshop, Phil Martin’s labor conferences
- The water economics workshop
Future Challenges

• To expand the relevant output and “impactful” knowledge we generate
  – Should we initiate studies on major issues? with partners? (AIC, government, foundations)

• Build critical mass of knowledge and research in various fields
  – Workshops on various topics (with economists in government and private sector?)

• Reach out to scientists (water, biotech, etc.); joint ventures with other groups (Kearney?)

• Reach out to counties to increase economic literacy in ANR and Cal ag activities
  - Need more specialists and economists as farm advisors
The Financial Picture
Governance

It has been 7 years since our last review.
Many improvements - Documentation
                 Budgeting
                 There is accountability
                 More initiative

But we need clearer procedures for transition

Mechanisms for assessment and evaluation (another review?)

Clear objectives and performance criteria
Thanks

• The Board: Karen Klonsky, Rich Sexton, and Jeffrey Williams
• Editorial Board: Peter Berck and Julian Alston
• Libraries: Susan Garbarino, Barbara Hegenbart, and Grace Dote
• ARE Update Crew: Julie McNamara, Rich Sexton, Steve Blank, Alix Zwane, Dave Sunding, and David Roland-Holst.
• The Chairs: Jeff Perloff, Jim Chalfant and Richard Howitt
• Amor, Justine, Karen, Angie, Diana, Carmen, Bessie, and the rest of the Berkeley staff
• Carol Guthrie, Manju Kaul, and Sue Brugh from Davis

Alex and Phyllis McCalla and Warren Johnston for 75th Anniversary Event