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?
• 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