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THE GIANNINI FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

In the near future and in the decades ahead, economic issues related to agriculture will be of major and increasing importance at state, national, and international levels. After extensive review and consultation, action has been taken to strengthen the program of the Giannini Foundation for Agricultural Economics, one of the university's organizational units established specifically to address such issues.

The administrative responsibility for the Foundation, a university-wide Organized Research Unit, has been assigned to the Vice President—Agricultural Sciences, and the Foundation's budget has been transferred from the Berkeley campus to the university-wide Division of Agricultural Sciences.

Policies governing the Foundation's operations and the role of its director have been re-defined to further university-wide participation in its activities and the development of additional financial support. It is intended that the strengthened program will reflect a deep concern for the problems of agriculture throughout California—the central and original purpose of the Foundation grant—and for agriculture in the West and its relationship to national policies and concerns.

The new policy statement stipulates the appointment by the President of the University, of a coordinating board composed of representatives from appropriate campuses and disciplines, including the chairpersons of the Department of Agricultural Economics on the Berkeley and Davis campuses and the coordinator of Cooperative Extension agricultural econo-

mists as members ex officio. The board will be chaired by the Vice President—Agricultural Sciences, who will serve as the administrative advisor to the director and will be responsible for the Foundation's budget development.

The Foundation functions primarily in the area of research in agricultural economics, with collateral concerns for education and public service. Its membership is composed of faculty in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Berkeley and Davis, appropriate faculty in the Department of Forestry and Conservation at Berkeley, and agricultural economists in Cooperative Extension.

An important responsibility of the new director will be to improve coordination between departments, among extension economists and between department and extension economists in identifying research and extension needs and developing programs to meet them. The director will also be responsible for maintaining close contact with the many and varied groups external to the university who are concerned with the economics of agriculture.

Because a major share of the income from the original endowment is used to support the world-renowned Foundation library, additional funds will be needed to further the Foundation's program objectives. It will be the responsibility of the new coordinating board and the new director to develop the ways and means to maintain the Foundation's vital library collections and implement the broadened research and extension program in the interests of California agriculture.