

⌘ Planning Group Meeting ⌘
Women and the Undergraduate Economics Major
NBER, 1050 Massachusetts Ave. Cambridge MA
Saturday, November 15, 2014

- 9:00am Welcome and individual introductions. Working breakfast at NBER 1050 Massachusetts Ave., 3rd floor conference room.
- Group Discussion I: The Problem.*
What do you think is the “problem” with regard to the economics major and women? What has your department (or you) tried to increase women’s involvement in economics and with what degree of success? Are business majors a good substitute for economics?
- 10:00am *Presentation:* Claudia Goldin, “Gender and the Undergraduate Economics Major.” “Challenge” grants from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
- 10:30am *Group Discussion II: Designing the “Challenge.”*
What is the range of possible interventions (treatments)? Should institutions be given a suggested list of interventions, a required list or no list? What should the timing be (e.g., announcement in January 2015, selection in March, meeting with “treatment” schools in May, start of treatment in Fall 2015)?
- 11:15am Break
- 11:30am *Group Discussion III: Selecting “Challenge” institutions.*
Who should be invited to take part in the “Challenge”? What should the size cutoff be in terms of the three-year average for number of economics BAs? Who should be the contact person at each institution? What should the initial letter/e-mail of invitation state (e.g., should it mention the three-year conversion rate of the institution?) When should a meeting occur with the principals at each of the selected institutions?
- 12:30pm Working lunch
- Group Discussion IV: Setting up the “Challenge.”*
Should the “Challenge” be for one or two years (tradeoff would be the number of institutions that could be selected since funds exist for 20 institutions that are given \$6,250K for each of two years)? Could a school create a good intervention for just one year? What would determine whether a second year would be granted? What would or should the funds be spent on (e.g., outside speakers, group dinners, additional counselling, anything at all)? Can you envision problems in awarding funds to a department or to an undergraduate office?
- 1:30pm Break

- 1:45pm *Group Discussion V: Evaluating the “Challenge” as an RCT*
Which should be the control institutions? Using institutions that were lotteried out or using “observationally identical” institutions from the IPEDS? Under either circumstance there would be the problem of waiting four or five years before knowing the number of BAs awarded in economics. If the control institutions are those that were lotteried out there is the possible use of “declarations” of the intended major for both controls and treatments. Problems in getting cooperation of controls. Would small financial incentives work?
- 3:00pm Adjourn