

Annual Report to the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

The Department of Sociology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) and the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) have a long and productive relationship. The relationship is one that I support without reservation. I am also committed to making the recent reorganization of the Executive Office work. In transitions of this sort it is not unusual for problems to arise, but I am not aware of any problems this past year.

Relations between the Department, the Administrative Office, and the Executive Office could not be better. My work with the Administrative Office staff (Michele Koontz, Sharon Shumaker, and Sarah Hendricks) and the Executive Officer (Héctor L. Delgado) has been both positive and productive. They are doing an excellent job and they operate in a very professional manner. Millie Hill (who retired in March) worked closely with Michele on budgetary matters in the Department and they had a good working relationship. I believe Millie's replacement, Tina Smith, will work effectively with Michele on budgetary and related issues. Students, staff, and the faculty remain very supportive of the relationship between the Department and SSSP. And, of course, many of our faculty and graduate students are active in SSSP.

Sarah Hendricks continues to do an excellent job as the Graduate Assistant for the SSSP's Administrative Office. We anticipated last year that she would complete degree requirements by August of 2010 but it now appears that she will complete the degree requirements no later than the spring 2011 term. Sarah remains one of our strongest PhD students and we expect she will be successful after finishing her degree with us.

As I noted in last year's report, I will continue to review and update Administrative Office staff salaries in accordance with UTK guidelines. A copy of the Administrative Office's budget for the year was attached to the new contract between UTK and SSSP. We do not expect modifications in the budget at this point but if modifications are required we will request changes as appropriate. Bill Dunne (Associate Dean for Research, Graduate Studies, and Facilities) rotated out of the College of Arts and Sciences in August 2009. The College has continued its strong support of the Administrative Office. I believe that the incoming Associate Dean (Christine Boake) will be very supportive. Greg Reed (Associate Vice Chancellor of the Office of Research) remains very supportive and he is pleased that the Administrative Office will remain in the Department of Sociology.

I had an excellent working relationship with the Administrative Office staff and the Executive Officer this past year. I expect this relationship will continue. We are committed to hosting the Administrative Office and the College and UTK will continue to support the Department in this effort.

In sum, the Department has benefited greatly from hosting the Administrative Office this past year. We could not be more pleased. And I look forward to working with the Executive Officer and the Administrative Office this next year.

R. Scott Frey, Professor and Head of Sociology and Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Social Justice, April 29, 2010