

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

Jon Shefner
Professor and Head
Department of Sociology
University of Tennessee

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. We have been the home of the Executive Office since 1990, and more recently remain the home of the Administrative Office. Most, if not all, of our faculty and graduate students are members of SSSP, attend the annual conference, and avidly read *Social Problems*. Several faculty members have served on a variety of SSSP committee positions over the years. As both a long-standing member of the SSSP, and as department head, the relationship is one that I support without reservation.

My work with the Administrative Office staff (Michele Koontz, Kelly Flatford, 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. The search and appointment process for Sarah Hendricks' successor went very well, and Michele acted both carefully and consultatively, balancing the Society's and the Department's needs. The department is very pleased that Lisa East will replace Sarah Hendricks, and continue to think of this GRA position as a useful resource. Lisa is a highly regarded student, and we are delighted she has the SSSP support for the foreseeable future.

The new departmental administrative assistant, Nancy Loftis works closely with Michele on budgetary matters in the Department. Michele has a very good working relationship with both Nancy Loftis and our other administrative assistant, Shirley Martin. In addition, the Permanent Organization & Strategic Planning Committee and I had a very productive meeting in February. I do hope the discussion will result in some greater amount of financial support for the Department as the contract is renewed.

The Department will continue to review and update Administrative Office staff salaries in accordance with UTK guidelines. We do not expect modifications in the budget at this point but if modifications are required we will request changes as appropriate. After four years of no salary raises, there is talk that UT workers will indeed get small raises; we will certainly keep the Society up to date on any changes that may pertain. The College continues its strong support of the Administrative Office. Associate Dean for Research Chris Boake is very supportive. Greg Reed (Associate Vice Chancellor of the Office of Research) remains very supportive; I am on the Search Committee for the Vice Chancellor for Research, which puts me in a good position to continue to generate UT administrative support for the SSSP – Sociology Department relationship.

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. I look forward to this longstanding and very positive relationship continuing, and working with the Executive Officer and the Administrative Office this next year.