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Annual Report to the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, 2014

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The Department of Sociology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) and the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) enjoy a long and productive relationship. We have been the home of the Executive Office since 1990, and 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, Sharon Shumaker, Marisa Stone, and Lisa East) and the Executive Officer (Héctor L. Delgado) continues to be both positive and productive. They are doing an excellent job and they operate in a very professional manner. Our senior 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. We expect the transition to a new GRA recruited from our graduate student ranks will be as smooth as they have been in the past, and we expect to consult regarding the graduate student who will take that position.

It is important to note at this point that the Department of Sociology agreed to pay the tuition of the SSSP GRA at a point when that tuition was much lower. Also at that time, the College of Arts and Sciences supported the position. Somehow, that support disappeared. Since the time of that agreement also, UTK tuition has close to tripled, and we are close to being unable to pay that tuition out of the money that SSSP gives the Department, which I understand was never meant to pay for the GRA. The Society and the Department will need to have a conversation about this issue soon. It appears that during one of the transitions – either in Department Heads or Deans - some documentation about the College support of SSSP was lost. The College Budget Director

is the best person to answer the questions about the missing support, but she is often hard to communicate with. Like many universities, UT is undergoing a budget cut this upcoming academic year. We value our relationship with SSSP greatly, but our departmental operating budget has been stagnant for decades. Once I receive the information from our College Budget Director, we will have to have an open conversation regarding further aid to the Department.

I have had an excellent working relationship with the Administrative Office staff and the Executive Officer since taking this position, and fully expect that will continue. We are committed to hosting the Administrative Office. In sum, the Department continues to benefit greatly from hosting the Administrative Office. I look forward to this longstanding and very positive relationship continuing, and working with the Executive Officer and the Administrative Office this next year.