March 26, 2014

To: Graduate Committee

I am writing this letter in support of Thomas Haberer’s application to the Master of Arts in Sociology program at San Diego State. Thom is an older returning student who served in the military and worked in the private sector. Thom has been a student of mine in two classes, Contemporary Social Theory and Social Construction of Reality. He has also been my teaching assistant for the last four semesters. Thom excelled in both classes and he has been the best assistant that I have had.

The evaluation process for the Contemporary Theory course includes three exams and two papers. Thom received As on each of the exams and As on each of the papers. He had the highest point total in the theory class. His papers were well written, well developed and demonstrated an ability to think critically and at a high level of abstraction. Last semester he took Social Construction of Reality and had a 100+%. He is articulate, participates in class discussion, and never misses a class. I would rank him in the top 2% of students that I have taught at State, and believe he is prepared to do graduate level work. He is also on the list for Outstanding Graduating Senior.

He has excelled as an assistant. He is responsible and reliable. He has graded papers, met with students, graded and entered scantrons. He would be a very good graduate assistant for any instructor, and could be a teaching assistant for the large 101.

I give him my very highest recommendation without qualification.

Tom Semm

Lecturer, Department of Sociology

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