

ARTICLE XXXVII: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

Section 1: The University will establish an Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF) to assist Graduate Student Assistants with the financial costs associated with Qualifying Emergency Events. For the purposes of this Article, a Qualifying Emergency Event refers to extreme financial burdens associated with (1) care of an immediate family member (as defined in Article XXII: Personal Days) who is experiencing a serious health condition or the Graduate Student Assistant's own serious health condition (as defined in Article XXIII: Leaves of Absence from Assistantship); (2) bereavement of an immediate family member; (3) physical damage to a Graduate Student Assistant's residence; (4) loss or irreparable damage of material resources required for completing professional responsibilities, such as a computer; and 5) any other event that places the Graduate Student Assistant in extreme financial burden.

Section 2: The University will budget an amount equal to ~~\$50.00~~ \$150.00 per Graduate Student Assistant, based on the total number of Graduate Student Assistants in the bargaining unit during the previous academic year, for the EAF on July 1 of each year.

Section 3: The Fund will be administered by the Graduate School and decisions will be made pursuant to standards and procedures developed in consultation with the Union. Such consultations shall occur through the Labor-Management Committee.

Section 4. The Graduate School shall create a report annually about the requests and use of the EAF, without revealing any personally identifiable information regarding any Graduate Student Assistant who made a request for assistance from the EAF.

Section 5: Graduate Student Assistants will be able to make a voluntary contribution to support the EAF through the University Office of Advancement's online donation portal.

Section 6: Grievances under Article IX related to the EAF are limited to those disputes over the process used to review the application and may be filed directly at Step Two of the Grievance Procedure. All other EAF disputes, including substantive determinations of eligibility, shall be resolved through the EAF's appeal procedures.