

1 **ARTICLE 30. THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND**

2 GTFF Proposed Language | ~~GTFF deletion~~ | UO Proposed Language | ~~UO deletion~~ |
3 Agreed Upon Language | Status Quo

4
5 **Section 1. Graduate Student Assistance Fund**

- 6 a. The University will maintain a “Graduate Student Assistance Fund” (the “Fund”) for the
7 purpose of supporting the wellbeing of graduate students, including GEs, facing financial
8 hardship relating to a Qualifying Event. Each year, on September 15th, the University
9 will place an amount equal to \$50 per admitted and enrolled UO master’s and doctoral
10 student (the “Annual Amount”) into the Fund to be used for awards to eligible UO
11 graduate students. UO will replenish the Fund with the Annual Amount and will carry-
12 forward amounts remaining in the Fund from the previous year up to one-third of the
13 previous year’s Annual Amount (this process shall be referred to as the “Annual
14 Accounting”). For purposes of determining the Annual Amount on any September 15th ,
15 the number of admitted and enrolled master’s and doctoral students will be the number
16 that were enrolled as cited in the fall Fourth Week Data Report from the previous fall.
- 17 b. For purposes of this section, a Qualifying Event is defined as follows:
- 18 1. the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child;
 - 19 2. pregnancy disability or prenatal care;
 - 20 3. to care for ~~a spouse (or equivalent under Oregon law), registered domestic~~
21 ~~partner, child, or parent~~ a family member who is experiencing a serious medical
22 condition or the student’s own serious mental and/or physical health condition.
23 Family members include spouses and domestic partners, children, parents,
24 siblings or stepsiblings, grandparents, grandchildren, and any person related
25 by blood or affinity whose relationship is equivalent to family.
 - 26 4. the death of a ~~family member spouse (or equivalent under Oregon law),~~
27 ~~registered domestic partner, child, parent;~~ Family members include spouses
28 and domestic partners, children, parents, siblings or stepsiblings,
29 grandparents, grandchildren, and any person related by blood or affinity
30 whose relationship is equivalent to family.
 - 31 5. Graduate students who are caregivers who had a GE appointment during the
32 academic year as part of a multi-year funding offer commitment and do not
33 have a GE appointment in the subsequent summer may apply to the fund for
34 support for living expenses over the summer;
 - 35 6. International graduate students who had a GE appointment during the academic
36 year as part of a multi-year funding offer commitment and do not have a GE
37 appointment in the subsequent summer may apply to the fund for support for living
38 expenses over the summer;
 - 39 7. Graduate students ~~Employees~~ may access the Graduate Student Assistance Fund
40 for the purposes of childcare. This assistance may be used once per academic year
41 per child aged thirteen (13) or younger and only for documented childcare or

42 enrichment programs including, but not limited to: licensed daycare facilities,
43 summer day camps, after-school programs, etc. Accessing the Graduate Student
44 Assistance Fund for childcare as described in this Section shall not count toward the
45 maximum cap on accessing the fund.

- 46 8. A loss of housing ~~more than sixty (60) days~~ prior to the end of a lease agreement
47 or similar housing instrument to which the GE graduate student is subject, which
48 requires the GE graduate student to vacate the premises within ~~thirty (30)-sixty~~
49 (60) days. This subsection does not apply if GEs graduate students are removed
50 from their housing due to a violation of a lease agreement or similar housing
51 instrument, or if they voluntarily terminate a lease agreement or similar housing
52 instrument except when terminated due to documented uninhabitable
53 conditions.
- 54 9. Layoff from one's GE position as defined in Article 21, or non-reappointment.
55 10. Loss of healthcare coverage
56 11. Loss of state or federal benefits, such as SNAP
57 12. Unemployment for more than 30 days
58 13. Costs incurred from immigration and work authorization related issues,
59 including but not limited to loss of income and/or benefits, traveling expenses
60 and legal expenses.
- 61 c. The GTFF shall appoint two representatives to the Fund Committee.
62 d. ~~Grievances under ARTICLE 13 related to the Graduate Student Assistance Fund~~
63 ~~are limited to those disputes over the process used to review the application and~~
64 ~~may be filed directly at Step 3. All other Fund disputes, including substantive~~
65 ~~determinations, shall be resolved through the Fund's appeal procedures.~~

66 **Section 2.** ~~Up to twice per fiscal year, if/lf~~ the Fund's total reserves fall below \$25,000, the
67 University shall make a payment of \$25,000 to the Fund.

68
69 **Section 3.** The University agrees to explore ways to improve outreach and care to support the
70 wellbeing of graduate students by working with the Office of the Dean of Students and other
71 offices offering relevant resources in order to:

- 72 a. increase graduate students' knowledge of and access to all available crisis resources,
73 and
74 b. to improve the care and support given to students who apply for crisis resources.

75 Section 4. Decisions and Appeals Processes

- 76 a. Review and Decision: The Vice Provost for Graduate Studies or their designee
77 shall review the application and determine whether the information submitted is
78 sufficient to prove eligibility up to the requested amount.
79 i. Graduate students shall be informed of the decision within ten (10)
80 business days of their application's receipt by the Division of Graduate
81 Studies

- 82 ii. If the information presented is not sufficient to prove that the graduate
83 student is eligible for the requested amount, they may be granted a partial
84 award or the award may be fully denied
85 1. All denials or partial awards must be supported by specific
86 reasoning and justification in the denial letter
87 iii. As long as there is sufficient money in the fund, requests shall not be
88 unreasonably denied
89 b. Appeals Process: Any graduate student whose application is denied in full or in
90 part may appeal the decision within ten (10) business days by submitting a written
91 request to the Division of Graduate Studies that their application and the decision
92 be reviewed.
93 i. Notification of receipt of appeal shall be sent by the Graduate Student
94 Assistance Fund Committee and the Provost within five (5) business days
95 of receiving the appeals request.
96 ii. The Provost and Graduate Assistance Fund Committee shall, together,
97 issue a final decision to all parties in writing within fifteen (15) business
98 days of sending receipt of appeal. This joint decision is final and binding.
99 c. Grievances under ARTICLE 13 related to the Graduate Student Assistance Fund
100 are limited to those disputes over the process used to review the application and
101 may be filed directly at Step 3. All other Fund disputes, including substantive
102 determinations, shall be resolved through the Fund's appeal procedures.
103 d. Recognizing that changes in the Graduate Assistance Fund bylaws can affect the
104 details of this article, the University agrees to meet and bargain over this article at
105 the request of the Union.