**Article PROFESSIONAL\_DEVELOPMENT\_ARTICLE – Professional Development**

**Section PROFESSIONAL\_DEVELOPMENT\_ARTICLE.PURPOSE\_SECTION – Purpose**

The University recognizes that adequate supporting services are necessary for effective scholarship and professional development. All GAs are encouraged to participate in activities that enhance their professional development.

In order to support scholarship and professional development the University shall fund a multifaceted GA Development Program that reflects both the need for members to fulfill

the tasks of scholarly and scientific research, writing, teaching, scholarship, service, and all other aspects of the Mission of the University. This program will fund related activities, including but not limited to travel, hotel expenses, registration fees, child care during travel, and other expenses required to attend conferences; research, including acquisition of specialized equipment (such as laboratory or art supplies); workshops and trainings; professional organization fees and professional licensure or certification requirements; subscriptions and books; submission fees; and other job-related professional development opportunities. GEU will administer the program, with oversight from applicable supervisors and OAA. All GAs will be eligible to apply for and receive funds through this program.

**Section PROFESSIONAL\_DEVELOPMENT\_ARTICLE.FUNDING\_AND\_ALLOCATION\_ SECTION – Funding and Allocation**

The fund for professional development shall be $200,000 per fiscal year[[1]](#footnote-0). If, at the end of a given fiscal year, all available Professional Development funds are not expended, they will be carried over and available for use during the next fiscal year.

Funding allocation will be prioritized for GAs who have not previously received funding through this article or have previously received funding fewer times than other applicants. Preference will be given to applicants presenting, performing, or conducting primary research in their respective fields. Grants of professional development funds are limited to $2,000 per eligible member per year. Funding allocations will be based on application budgets, and funds will be disbursed before initial expenditures laid out in the application timeline.

**Section PROFESSIONAL\_DEVELOPMENT\_ARTICLE.APPLICATION\_AND\_APPROVAL\_ SECTION – Application and Approval Process**

Applications will be completed by GAs, and include a budget and timeline for expenditures. Applications will be approved by the supervisor or designee and GEU, then forwarded to the Office of Academic Affairs for review. GEU representatives may elect to meet with a decision maker at OAA to make collaborative decisions about funding allocation.

Application for the Professional Development funds is contained in \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Every GA should have an opportunity to use this at least once in their graduate career at PSU, at half the annual per-GA limit: $1000 \* (800 GAs / 4 years) = $200,000. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)