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ARTICLE 36. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

 Section 1. The University recognizes the importance of encouraging and supporting bargaining unit faculty members in professional development activities that enhance university instruction; scholarship, research and creative activities; and service that further the university's academic mission. Bargaining unit faculty members will have access to, and a monthly an accounting of, their resources available for professional development.

Section 2. Every unit will have a policy setting forth the procedures and criteria for applying for and/or distributing available professional development funds using the process stated as mandated in Article 4. The University shall inform bargaining faculty members of the amount and status of their professional development funds in a monthly statement.

Section 2. Professional Development Funds. University funding support for professional development activities includes the following:

a. Unit-level funding for professional development activities, which is awarded in connection with unit-level policies;

b. Designated funds for bargaining unit faculty members in appropriate classifications, categories, and ranks, such as Academic Support Accounts (ASA) or Professional Development Accounts (PDA), etc.;

c. Other professional development funds made available for supporting professional development (i.e. Article 28);

d. For purposes of this Article, "professional development funds" does not include external funds that grants or awards which have restrictions on use (e.g., external grants or awards, endowment funds), or endowment funds which have restrictions on use.

Section 3. Use of Professional Development Funds. The use of professional development funds must comply with all university, school or college, and department or unit policies and guidelines, in addition to applicable laws, regulations, and other funding restrictions. When a bargaining unit faculty member is on an approved sabbatical, research, medical, or family leave, they may utilize professional development funds in order to maintain necessary activity on active projects. Use of professional development funds while on approved leave other than sabbatical will be considered on a case-by-case basis to honor the scope and purpose of the leave.

Section 4. Ownership. All professional development funds along with any materials and equipment purchased with professional development funds are the property of the University and do not become the property of the individual faculty member. When a bargaining unit faculty member separates from the University (e.g., resigns, retires, is laid off, or is terminated), they forfeit any remaining professional development funds to the University. Electronic devices purchased with professional development funds may be subject to periodic return to the appropriate administrative unit to maintain inventory and update software.

Section 5. Additional Limitations. Academic Support Accounts are not available to augment salaries, including compensation in the summer or expenses that would be considered in support of typical departmental operations. The use of professional development funds, including ASA funds, by funding-contingent bargaining unit faculty members must comply with the terms and conditions of their sponsored project and all federal and state laws and regulations.