



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.

Legislative Update

PROFS, the Public Representation Organization of the Faculty Senate, is a non-profit advocacy organization of UW-Madison faculty. Formed by the Faculty Senate and governed by the University Committee, PROFS provides a voice to faculty, allowing them to communicate directly with the governor, legislators and members of Congress.

The Assembly concluded its work for the 2019-20 legislative session February 21, but Senate leaders have indicated they will meet one day this month. A summary of PROFS' 2019-20 legislative effort is below:

- **Mark Cook Bill (AB 38)** PROFS worked hard to ensure this bill was signed into law in 2019. The legislation, named after the late UW-Madison Animal Science professor Mark Cook, streamlines the process by which University of Wisconsin faculty members can enter into research contracts involving the university and an organization with which the same faculty members are connected.
- **Campus Speech Bills (AB 444/SB 403)** This legislation requires the Board of Regents to adopt a policy on campus speech, including outlining specific disciplinary actions for those who violate the policy. PROFS is registered against these bills and offered a strong statement in opposition at a public hearing last month. AB 444 has passed the Assembly, but Governor Evers has indicated he will veto this legislation should it pass the Legislature.
- **Extension Funding and Hours (AB 627/SB 563 and AB 556/SB 497)** PROFS is registered in favor of the first pair of bills which provide UW-Madison with \$1 million for applied agricultural research conducted by Extension faculty and staff. The second pair of bills require the development of policies to monitor extension and outreach efforts by state agricultural specialists at four campuses including UW-Madison. PROFS worked with CALS faculty and legislators to improve this legislation. AB 627 and AB 556 have passed the Assembly and may be taken up by the Senate.
- **UW System Freshwater Collaborative (AB 801/SB 712)** This legislation provides \$2 million in the second year of this biennium for the UW System Freshwater Collaborative. Both versions of these bills have passed and could be scheduled for a vote by the Senate.

UW System President Search

The University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee met via conference call February 27. The search is likely to conclude in late spring. PROFS sent a letter criticizing the board for not including faculty and staff on the search committee late last year.

Join PROFS!

PROFS needs the support of ALL faculty to be most successful. If you are not a member, please consider joining PROFS today. PROFS is funded entirely through modest monthly contributions from faculty. Complete and return to PROFS, Room 258 Bascom Hall.

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Last 4 digits of your Social Security number (required by payroll to activate your deduction) _____

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I hereby authorize UW-Madison to deduct from my salary a voluntary contribution to PROFS of one-tenth of one percent of my gross salary for that month. This authorization will remain in effect until PROFS receives a cancellation notice and forwards it to the payroll office.

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