



*Representing UW-Madison Faculty.  
Strengthening Wisconsin.*

## **PROFS Statement on Restoring Shared Governance Language to the Wisconsin Statutes (LRB-3820/P1)**

December 21, 2015

Good morning. My name is Judith Burstyn. I am a Chemistry Professor at UW-Madison and former Chair of the University Committee. I am now President of PROFS -- the Public Representation Organization of the Faculty Senate -- which represents the faculty. PROFS is linked to the governance structure at the university, with the University Committee, the executive committee of the Faculty Senate, serving as our Board of Directors.

I would like to thank Representatives Hesselbein and Berceau for drafting this important legislation. Restoring strong statutorily-defined shared governance at the UW would send a message to faculty, staff and students that we are important to the university.

Here are some facts to demonstrate why the people of Wisconsin should care about shared governance at the UW. UW-Madison consistently ranks among the top few universities nationally in securing federal funds. The university's annual impact on the state is \$12.4 billion. In a single fiscal year, the cutting-edge research being done at UW-Madison, through shared governance's collaboration with the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), produced 372 invention disclosures, 204 international issued patents, and 151 issued U.S. patents.

Students and alumni consistently give the university high marks. And people across the globe are familiar with the education and research taking place at the University of Wisconsin. The university is one of the things that make our state special.

How did the university become such an asset to the state? By having strong, statutorily-defined shared governance. Shared governance has been the birthplace of many great initiatives across the UW campuses. Shared governance saves the university money. And shared governance is the antidote to the bad idea: it makes sure proposals are thoroughly vetted before moving forward.

Make no mistake about it. One of the reasons faculty stay at UW-Madison, despite pay well below our peers, is our strong history of shared governance.

And make no mistake about this: other universities across the nation and world are watching Wisconsin closely. They know that the state has attacked both tenure and shared governance. These universities are coming after our faculty. Based on initial reports, the number of outside offers to faculty is increasing this academic year, even though we have always been a target for outside offers.

PROFS is proud to have worked with Representatives Berceau and Hesselbein on this important legislation and we look forward to continuing to work with them to make sure it is given serious consideration in the Legislature.