



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.  
Strengthening Wisconsin.

## Legislative Update

PROFS, a non-profit membership organization representing UW-Madison faculty, monitors legislation and lobbies the governor, members of the legislature, and members of Congress. PROFS has a long history of effectiveness – PROFS led the fight to ensure retirement contributions are taken pre-tax, saving the average faculty member about \$1,800 per year and successfully lobbied for the new Chemistry Building project.

### 2019-21 Biennial Budget

Governor Tony Evers will introduce his state budget later this month. PROFS has already met with the governor's higher education policy advisor to discuss the importance of a strong budget for UW-Madison.

The Regent budget request includes:

- \$82.5 million to meet outcomes-based goals set by the Republican legislature, including student success, workforce development and operational efficiencies.
- \$25 million to improve access in high-demand fields in science, math, technology, engineering, health care and business.
- \$90 million to expand UW-Madison's Veterinary Medicine building.

The state budget process is a months-long process that stretches into summer. The Joint Finance Committee and both houses of the state legislature must approve the plan before it is returned to the governor for his vetoes and final approval. PROFS actively monitors and participates in the state budget, meeting with key legislators and leaders from UW-Madison and UW System.

### Mark Cook Bill

PROFS recently met with legislators to discuss the Mark Cook bill, legislation that would streamline and strengthen the law governing contracts between the university and a private company or nonprofit group in which a faculty member has a financial interest. The PROFS Entrepreneurial Work Group developed this draft legislation which honors the late faculty member and entrepreneur who chaired the work group. The bill, which died in committee last session, was re-introduced with strong bipartisan support. State Representative Shelia Stubbs (D-Madison) is a lead sponsor.

### PROFS Statement in Support of Professor Ken Mayer

Last month, PROFS released the following statement in support of Political Science Professor Ken Mayer:

In advocating for the UW-Madison faculty, PROFS vigorously defends academic freedom. State Representative Dave Murphy's criticism of political science professor Ken Mayer's course is an attack on academic freedom. It could have a chilling effect on future faculty members' willingness to speak freely and openly about controversial topics of the day, a very unfortunate outcome. PROFS applauds groups like the College Republicans for standing up for Professor Mayer. These students recognize that Professor Mayer is a fair professor who is nonetheless willing to speak critically and honestly. That is a key element of the Wisconsin Idea.

### Pay Plan

In December, the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents approved a 2019-21 pay plan. UW-Madison faculty and staff will receive 3 percent annual increases in each of the next two fiscal years if approved by the Legislature's Joint Committee on Employee Relations.

### Join PROFS!

PROFS is solely funded by voluntary monthly contributions and needs the support of all faculty to be most successful. Please consider joining PROFS if you are not already a member. Membership information is on the PROFS website: [profs.wisc.edu](http://profs.wisc.edu).

Follow PROFS on  Twitter (@PROFSUWMadison) and  Facebook (PROFSUWMadison).

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