



*Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.*

PROFS Statement on Joint Finance Action

The Joint Finance Committee missed an opportunity to significantly reinvest in the UW System, the people who work at UW institutions, and the students who attend them. The committee's actions fell well short of what Governor Evers proposed and what the Board of Regents had requested.

PROFS advocated for the higher education budget proposed by Governor Evers. The Evers budget was a reasonable, balanced plan that included new funding for financial aid for in-state students, funding for a modest pay plan, and other much-needed investments in the UW System.

Since the Governor proposed his budget, the state actually learned that it would be generating \$753 million more in revenue than previously projected. While we can debate whether this funding should be put in the state's Rainy Day Fund or used for more spending or tax cuts, it is certainly another reason why the Evers higher education budget should not have been cut by legislators.

Unfortunately, the Joint Finance Committee voted to completely eliminate the Governor's proposed increase in financial aid for in-state students and his plan to provide an additional 1% per-year pay plan for faculty and staff. While funding for the 2% per-year pay plan is a step in the right direction, the state would only provide 70% of the funding. Combined with a tuition freeze and inadequate overall funding, the university will be forced to "rob Peter to pay Paul" in order to give employees a modest pay increase.

PROFS would particularly like to thank Rep. Chris Taylor (D-Madison), a Joint Finance Committee member, for her strong statements regarding the need to support faculty recruitment and retention at UW-Madison and throughout the UW System.

PROFS encourages legislative leaders to work with Governor Evers and all legislators on a budget that will truly address the needs of UW System, including UW-Madison.