



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 Legislature is currently in session and PROFS is closely following several bills that impact UW-Madison. While the legislative calendar includes a floorperiod in March, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) has said he plans to conclude work this session by the end of the February.

**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. 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)** The first bills provides UW-Madison with \$1 million for applied agricultural research conducted by Extension faculty and staff. The second legislation was recently amended and requires 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. PROFS is registered in favor of the first pair of bills.

**Pay Plan** Late last year, the Joint Committee on Employee Relations (JCOER) approved two 2-percent raises for state employees, including UW-Madison faculty. The first of these went into effect January 5, 2020 and the second will go into effect January 3, 2021. PROFS sent a letter to the Co-Chairs of JCOER requesting that a meeting be scheduled to approve the pay plan. A meeting was announced soon after the letter was sent.

### UW System President Search

The University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee met via conference call last month. The committee agreed on language that does not require candidates to hold a doctoral or terminal degree, but instead have at least ten years experience in a “significant senior executive position” and an understanding of public higher education. The search is likely to conclude in late spring. PROFS previously sent a letter criticizing the board for not including faculty and staff on the search committee.

### 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) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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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Public Representation Organization of the Faculty Senate University of Wisconsin–Madison

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