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**Annual Report of PROFS, Inc: July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019****I CHARGE**

PROFS, the Public Representation Organization of the Faculty Senate, is a non-profit organization established by the Faculty Senate in 1976. The function of PROFS is to represent the UW-Madison faculty's interests – with particular emphasis on compensation and benefits, the university budget, legislation affecting the university and important regulatory issues – before the state legislature, the governor, other state and federal governmental agencies, the U.S. Congress, and the public.

**II PARTICIPATION**

PROFS is a voluntary dues-supported organization, funded through payroll deductions by faculty. Contributions are one-tenth of one percent of one's salary deducted once each month in which salary is earned.

**III ORGANIZATION****Leadership**

The elected members of the University Committee serve as the board of directors of PROFS. For the 2016-17 academic year, the following individuals served on the Board of Directors:

- Richard Amasino\*, chair (Biochemistry)
- Barbara Bowers (Nursing)
- Steven Ventura (Environmental Studies and Soil Science)
- Terry Warfield\* (Business)
- Paul Campangola (Biomedical Engineering)
- Kirsten Wolf\* (German, Nordic & Slavic)

Much of the day-to-day work of PROFS occurs under the supervision of the president and steering committee. Dorothy Farrar Edwards became president in August 2017. The 2018-19 members of the PROFS Steering Committee consisted of:

- Dorothy Farrar Edwards (Kinesiology), former University Committee member, President
- Michael Bernard-Donals (English and Jewish Studies) former University Committee member
- Thomas Broman (History, Emeritus), former University Committee member
- Barry Burden (Political Science)
- Judith Burstyn (Chemistry), former president, former University Committee member, member of the Faculty Senate
- Bradley Christian (Medical Physics)
- Nicholas Hillman (Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis)
- Kristyn Masters (Biomedical Engineering)
- Beth Meyerand (Biomedical Engineering), former University Committee member
- Eric Raimy (English)
- Eric Sandgren (Pathobiological Sciences), member of the Faculty Senate
- Anja Wanner (English), former University Committee member
- Steph Tai (Law)
- Timothy Yu (English and Asian American Studies)
- Plus University Committee members, noted with an \* above

**PROFS Bylaws**

The bylaws of PROFS (on file in the PROFS office) specify the University Committee serves as the PROFS board of directors. The steering committee consists of at least three current members of the University Committee; at least three members with prior experience on the University Committee; one or more at-large members selected from the UW-Madison faculty; at least one member from the Faculty Senate; and one member of the Commission on Faculty Compensation and Economic Benefits. Members who do not serve on the University Committee serve three-year renewable terms. Current University

Committee members may serve renewable one-year terms.

### **Legislative Representative**

Jack O'Meara continued to serve as PROFS Legislative Representative. Mr. O'Meara meets regularly with the board of directors and the steering committee to update them on legislative proposals affecting the faculty, establish PROFS' positions on legislation, and determine action. Mr. O'Meara meets with individual legislators and other officials at appropriate times to discuss PROFS issues and urge support of the faculty's position. PROFS arranges for members of the steering committee and other faculty members to meet with legislators, state officials, regents, the media and the general public, and to testify for or against key legislation.

### **Administration**

Michelle Felber is the half-time administrator and website/social media editor. She communicates regularly with faculty with email and through posts to the PROFS website, Facebook, and Twitter and manages the banking and accounts payable. SVA prepares annual taxes and the PROFS president or secretary/treasurer signs checks. The by-laws were amended in 2011 to require a financial review at least every three years. A financial review was completed by SVA in 2017 and is available in the PROFS office for review.

### **Lobbying**

As an organization engaged in lobbying, PROFS is required to register with and report to the State of Wisconsin Ethics Commission, filing a lobbying report twice each year. PROFS also reports its interest in any legislative bill, proposal, or budget item, and if it is taking a position, its positions. All reporting is available on the Ethics Commission website, [lobbying.wi.gov](http://lobbying.wi.gov).

## **IV COMMUNICATION**

PROFS communicates regularly with all faculty through e-mail updates and posts to the PROFS website ([profs.wisc.edu](http://profs.wisc.edu)), Facebook ([facebook.com/PROFSUWMadison](https://facebook.com/PROFSUWMadison)) and Twitter (@PROFSUWMadison). Communication through social media continues to grow. PROFS has more than 600 Twitter followers and Facebook posts were regularly read by hundreds of Facebook users.

## **V MEMBERSHIP**

PROFS reaches out to new faculty every fall and continues outreach efforts to veteran faculty members. Revenue from membership held steady. In cultivating membership, PROFS emphasizes its past achievements, including:

- Help securing \$86 million in state-supported bonding for UW-Madison Chemistry Building project
- Led campaign for pre-tax retirement contributions, saving faculty about \$1,800 per year
- Implementation of first-day health insurance coverage
- A continuing focus on competitive compensation, which in the past led to increased pay plans and catch-up pay plans

PROFS also emphasizes its platform for the future:

- Improved state funding for the UW budget, including competitive compensation for all faculty
- Improved communication between faculty and members of the Legislature
- Increased funding for graduate education and research

For more than 40 years, PROFS has played a key role in advocating for UW-Madison and its faculty. PROFS' sole charge is to advocate on behalf of faculty and needs continued support of the faculty to maintain its efforts. Faculty are always welcome to support PROFS by completing the form in the PROFS brochure or on PROFS web site, [profs.wisc.edu](http://profs.wisc.edu).

## **VI 2018-19 LOBBYING & LEGISLATION: PROFS' ACTIONS AND POSITIONS**

PROFS was active during the 2018-19 legislative session, meeting with key legislative and university

leaders. PROFS participates in more informal discussions, sending emails, making telephone calls, stopping in offices, and talking with people at meetings and in the halls of the Capitol. Over the course of the academic year, PROFS met with UW System President Ray Cross, Regents Drew Petersen and Robert Atwell, several state legislators and staff from Governor Evers office and Congressman Mark Pocan's office.

### **2018 Elections**

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Evers defeated incumbent Governor Scott Walker in a close race in November, but Republicans maintained strong majorities in the Assembly and Senate.

### **2019-21 State Budget**

Work on the 2019-21 state budget began in August when Governor Scott Walker instructed state agencies to prepare their budgets with zero increases. The Board of Regents ignored instructions and requested a \$107.5 million increase in state funding: \$82.5 million in outcomes-based funding and \$25 million to improve access in high demand fields. Regents also approved a \$1.9 billion capital budget request, including \$90 million to expand UW-Madison's Veterinary Medicine building.

Governor Tony Evers introduced his budget in February. His UW System budget included increases of \$44.7 million in FY20 and \$66 million in FY21 and \$40.4 million for a 2% pay plan.

### **Legislation**

**Assembly Bill 38 and Senate Bill 42 "Mark Cook Bill"**, legislation related to faculty contracts was reintroduced. Led by faculty experts, PROFS worked with a bipartisan group of legislators who introduced legislation related to University of Wisconsin research contracts. The faculty group, led by the late Mark Cook (Animal Science), identified the need to change state statutes that regulate how the university contracts with companies in which faculty or other university employees have a financial interest, noting current law is slow and cumbersome and ultimately leads to lost contracts.

## **VII FEDERAL RELATIONS PROGRAM**

Steering Committee member and Political Science professor Barry Burden and Legislative Representative Jack O'Meara participated in the Wisconsin Alumni Association's Badgers on the Hill event in Washington, D.C. on March 20. Jack met with Senator Tammy Baldwin and her staff, and Jack and Barry met jointly with Congressman Mark Pocan's staff. They each participated in Capitol Hill visits and WAA's reception and programming.

Chemistry professor Judith Burstyn continued as a member of Congressman Mark Pocan's higher education advisory committee. Pocan is a member of the House Appropriations Committee and its Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittee

## **VII CAMPUS OUTREACH**

**Entrepreneurial Forum** PROFS cosponsored a forum with the Discovery to Product (D2P) to assist faculty with their entrepreneurial efforts on November 15.

**State Budget Forum** PROFS cosponsored a state budget panel discussion with WISCAPE and the Wisconsin Alumni Association on April 2. State Representatives Dave Murphy (R-Greenville) and Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point), UW System Senior Director of State Relations Jeff Buhrandt, and PROFS Steering Committee member and Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis professor and Nick Hillman were panelists.