



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.

COVID-19

PROFS is carefully monitoring activity as it relates to UW-Madison and the massive impact of COVID-19:

Wisconsin Legislature Extraordinary Session The Assembly and Senate met in Extraordinary Session last week to pass a relief package that was signed by Governor Tony Evers on April 15. The legislation does not spend state money, but allows the state to take advantage of federal aid available for unemployment and health care costs relating to the pandemic.

The bill suspends the one-week waiting period to become eligible for unemployment benefits and allows the state to receive an additional \$150 million for health care programs for every fiscal quarter during the pandemic. Also included are several provisions relating to health insurance.

UW System and UW-Madison Furlough Policies

The UW System Board of Regents Executive Committee met last Thursday to discuss granting UW System President Ray Cross and UW-Madison Chancellor Rebecca Black the authority to create policies and procedures relating to employee furloughs in response to the immense budget pressures due to COVID-19. UW System released furlough guidelines and a representative from UW-Madison said furlough details would be released later this month. UW System announced Friday that it would furlough staff in System administration staff one day per month through June 2021.

CARES Act

UW-Madison is set to receive almost \$20 million in federal funding as part of the CARES Act. A minimum of half is to be allocated to students in the form of emergency financial aid grants.

Spring Election

Election results from the April 7 spring election were released April 13. Wisconsin Circuit Court Judge Jill Karofsky defeated Supreme Court Justice Dan Kelley in a contentious race, shifting the conservative majority to 4-3.

UW System President Search

The University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee continues to meet remotely. The committee met last Friday and Saturday to discuss interviews of candidates. The committee has previously said they will release the names of finalists the first week of May.

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. Please use the form on the PROFS website (profs.wisc.edu) to join.

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

April 20, 2020

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

258 Bascom Hall 500 Lincoln Drive Madison, WI 53706 608-263-9273 www.profs.wisc.edu