



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:

UW-Madison and UW System Furlough Policies

After receiving the authority from the UW System Board of Regents last month, UW System President Ray Cross and UW-Madison Chancellor recently announced guidelines for faculty and staff furloughs. Chancellor Blank announced that most faculty and staff would be required to take between three and six furlough days between May 15 and October 31. The number of furlough days is based on employee salaries, with lowest paid workers taking the fewest days. Top UW-Madison administrators will take a 15% pay cut instead, and students, post-docs and temporary workers are exempt.

UW-Madison Faculty's Role in the Fight Against the Pandemic

Many of our faculty colleagues have shifted focus quickly to help in the response to COVID-19 –producing face shields and hand sanitizer, leading plasma transfusion research trials, helping small businesses, and developing a possible vaccine, to name a few. Read more about this work on the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association website: www.advanceuw.org/coronavirus/news.

Wisconsin Legislature

The Assembly Committee on State Affairs held an informational hearing on reopening the state's economy last week, focusing on the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce Back to Business Plan. Republican legislative leaders have widely criticized Governor Tony Evers' Badger Bounce Back plan. While the legislature is almost certain to return to take up COVID-19 related legislation, they are also expected to return for a budget repair bill, which is required if the state budget is more than .5% out of balance. Legislative leaders have also indicated they may return this summer to finalize legislation that did not pass both houses of legislature earlier this year. PROFS is closely following these developments.

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.

UW System President Search

The University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee continues to meet remotely. The committee met in April and has indicated it hopes to name a successor to UW System President Ray Cross later this month.

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.

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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