



*Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.*

PROFS Statement on 2020-21 Policy Issues

With the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic and the opening of the 2020-21 legislative session, PROFS is preparing to weigh in on a number of issues that will affect the UW-Madison faculty and the university more broadly. The following is a partial list of issues and PROFS's position on them.

- Given the recent upsurge in COVID-19 cases in Dane County and on the UW-Madison campus, and given the consensus view that the wearing of masks can significantly reduce the spread of the disease, PROFS strongly supports the Governor's public health efforts, including the statewide mask mandate, and encourages the Legislature to support those efforts.
- PROFS urges the legislature to refrain from taking action that would further weaken the state's efforts to mitigate the pandemic, and to – in Governor Evers's words – “get on the same team” by following the science and supporting common-sense efforts at mitigation.
- A significant number of UW-Madison students wish to vote in the upcoming local, state, and federal elections, and so PROFS urges the legislature and the state and national parties to support efforts to make it easy for voters to register and to cast their votes, whether by mail or in person, and to refrain from legal action or other efforts to suppress the vote or to create obstacles for voting.
- PROFS will continue to work with its colleagues on the University Committee, on the Board of Regents, and at UW System to ensure that our faculty are safe, have the support and equipment they need to safely return to work, and have a voice in decisions about university operations in the remainder of the fall semester and during the spring semester. We endorse the UC's statements that "the overwhelming sentiment we are hearing from our faculty colleagues is to discontinue most face-to-face instruction for the rest of this semester. We believe that by doing so we can offer the highest quality and safest educational experience to our students" and "We ask that campus administrators recognize the concerns of the faculty and prioritize the ability for all instructors to choose the modality for their teaching moving forward."
- As work on the next biennial budget gets underway, PROFS will work with members of the Legislature, the Governor's office, the Wisconsin congressional delegation, and our colleagues in leadership at UW-Madison to ensure that the university has the resources it needs to continue providing an exceptional education to its students and delivering groundbreaking research for Wisconsin.
- With the experience of a failed presidential search behind us, PROFS will work with the Board of Regents to ensure that the search-and-screen process to select the successor to Interim UW System President Thompson is inclusive of a strong set of faculty voices, and that the search processes for administrators at UW System and at UW-Madison retain and increase representation by faculty.