



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.

Repeal of Statewide Mask Mandate

PROFS is one of more than 50 organizations that have registered in opposition to the proposed repeal of the statewide mask mandate. Last week, the Assembly paused action on the legislation after learning the proposal could jeopardize almost \$50 million per month in food aid to needy Wisconsinites. Assembly Speaker Robin Vos said the Assembly could take up the proposal again this week.

2021-23 Biennial State Budget

Enactment of the 2021-23 biennial budget is a months-long process that will begin with the introduction of Governor Tony Evers' budget bill on Tuesday, February 16. The proposal will be referred to the Joint Finance Committee for its work, which should include several public hearings on the bill. Once passed by the Joint Finance Committee, the bill will move through the State Assembly and State Senate before going back to Governor Evers for his signature.

Republicans hold a 12-4 majority on the finance committee and large majorities in the senate and assembly, so the final version of the bill may look very different from the one Evers will introduce this month. However, Evers has expansive partial veto powers resulting in the ability craft changes to the final bill. The entire process usually wraps up in late June or early July, but has stretched into late summer and occasionally fall.

PROFS has been in contact with key members of the governor's team, including the Secretary of the Department of Administration (DOA) and the governor's higher education policy advisor, to discuss the importance of a strong state budget for UW-Madison.

UW System State Budget Proposal

The 2021-23 UW System operating budget proposal includes a 3.5 percent funding increase over the biennium and features ten key initiatives, including a system-wide free tuition program for Wisconsin families earning less than \$60,000 annually, much like Bucky's Tuition Promise. Other funding priorities include student loan forgiveness programs for state teachers, 20 new UW-Madison Division of Extension county-based agriculture positions, and support for the Freshwater Collaborative.

The 2021-23 capital budget includes two projects important to UW-Madison: a new engineering building and a new Letters & Science academic building to replace the aging Mosse Humanities Building.

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 or email to profs@wisc.edu.

Name _____ Department _____

Last 4 digits of your Social Security number (required by payroll to activate your deduction) _____

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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

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