



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.

2021-23 Biennial State Budget

Governor Tony Evers introduced his 2021-23 biennial budget on Tuesday, February 16. PROFS commends Evers for proposing a strong higher education budget, exceeding the UW System request by almost \$100 million. His proposal includes:

- \$190 million in new funding for UW System, including more than \$50 million to fully fund the continuing freeze on in-state undergraduate tuition.
- \$40 million over two years in unrestricted funding to address student needs and budget losses due to COVID-19.
- Borrowing authority that will give UW System the ability borrow funds for short-term academic and athletic expenses, long-sought budget tool that UW-Madison peers already have.
- Expansion of Bucky’s Tuition Promise to all UW System institutions, along with significant increases in other financial aid programs.
- \$2 million for 15 additional county-based UW-Extension positions and 5 climate science research positions.

The governor also introduced a \$2.4 billion capital budget, which includes almost \$1 billion for UW System. UW-Madison has four major projects in the proposal:

- \$88 million for a new College of Letters and Science building to replace the aging Mosse Humanities Building.
- \$150 million for the first phase of a new College of Engineering building to replace the 82-year-old Computer Aided Engineering Center.
- \$26 million for the restoration of the 140-year-old Music Hall.
- \$73 million for underground utility work on the Engineering campus, an area prone to damaging floods.

Other Legislation

PROFS is carefully monitoring other legislative proposals, including bills that affect UW-Extension and proposed legislation that has the potential to limit voting in the state and restrict campus speech. Last week, PROFS President Michael Bernard-Donals testified at an informational hearing on campus speech held by the Senate Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges. His remarks are available on the PROFS website and Facebook page.

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.

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