



*Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.*

PROFS Statement on Legislative Action at the State Capitol February 25, 2022

PROFS thanks legislators from both sides of the political aisle for passing important three bills that benefit the University of Wisconsin-Madison:

- [Senate Bill 557](#) allows the university to manage some of its own investment funds rather than have them managed by the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB) in low-return investments.
- [Assembly Bill 775](#) requires the State Building Commission to allocate \$1 million from the state building trust fund for planning and design services for a new UW-Madison Engineering Building.
- [Senate Bill 605](#) adds "graduate health science classes" to the list of other professional school classes that have the flexibility to determine their own fall semester start date.

PROFS [registered](#) in favor of these bills and encourages Governor Evers to sign them into law.

Unfortunately, this legislative session has also seen attacks by some legislators on academic freedom and diversity and the promotion of equity within the UW System. PROFS has played an active role in fighting this legislation.

Members of the PROFS Steering Committee met with key legislators – including Rep. Shelia Stubbs, Rep. Francesca Hong, and Senator Kelda Roys – to assist with messaging and strategy. PROFS urges Governor Tony Evers to veto legislation like [Senate Bill 409](#), part of the "anti-CRT" movement to restrict what can be taught and discussed at universities, and [Assembly Bill 884](#), which would place language in state statute prohibiting public universities from requiring diversity and ethnic studies.

In his recent State of the State speech, Governor Evers announced he is directing \$30 million in federal funds to the UW System this biennium. This includes \$25 million to fund the continuation of the in-state tuition freeze and another \$5 million for desperately-needed mental health funding. PROFS thanks the Governor for this funding.

PROFS also remains pleased that the Board of Regents now has the authority to set in-state tuition rates as it deems necessary to manage operations. This is something PROFS lobbied for during the 2021-23 state budget debate.

Governor Evers has also proposed a plan to invest some of the state's \$3.8 billion surplus this biennium. His plan includes \$111 million in new funding for the UW System. PROFS encourages the Legislature to approve the Governor's plan.

Michael Bernard-Donals, PROFS President
Jack O'Meara, PROFS Legislative Representative