



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.

March 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.

2023-25 State Budget

Last month, Governor Tony Evers [delivered](#) his biennial budget address, where he announced a \$104 billion two-year spending plan. Evers said his budget reflected the state's excellent financial position due to a projected \$7.1 billion surplus. His largest items include:

- \$2.6 billion for K-12 education
- \$1.2 billion for middle-class tax cuts
- \$576 million increase in aid to local governments in the second year of the budget
- almost \$250 million to seed a new family leave program for public and most private sector employees

PROFS leaders and legislative representative meet with staff from Governor Evers' office in January to discuss the importance of paid family leave and that we are prioritizing the issue this year. We explained that the university is currently working to develop its own paid parental leave program, and the faculty support paid leave for all state and private sector employees.

PROFS also asked for a strong pay plan to allow faculty salaries to keep up with inflation and are pleased the governor announced pay raises of 5% in the first year of the biennium and 3% in the second year for state employees, including UW System faculty and staff.

Our full statement on the governor's budget proposal is on the [PROFS website](#).

2023-25 Capital Budget

Last week, Governor Evers [announced](#) his \$3.8 billion 2023-25 capital budget, which includes \$1.8 billion for UW System. Major UW-Madison capital projects include:



- A new Engineering building to replace Engineering Hall
- A new Athletics practice facility to replace the Shell
- New space for the Art Department
- Restoration of Music Hall

PROFS Forum on Free Speech

Last month, PROFS hosted a [forum on free speech](#) featuring UW System President Jay Rothman, State Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara (R-Appleton) and Political Science Professors Howard Schweber and Alex Tahk. The panel discussed a variety of topics related to free speech and academic freedom, including limits on topics in the classroom and how to balance free speech protections with the creation of an inclusive environment. A recording of the forum is available to watch on [WisconsinEye](#) after registering for a free account.

Join PROFS!

PROFS is funded entirely through modest monthly contributions from faculty and needs the support of all faculty to be most successful. Please use this [membership form](#) to join. New members will receive a PROFS mug as a thank you.

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