



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.

May 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

Public hearings on the state budget have been held around the state, and the Republican-controlled Joint Finance Committee will begin talking votes on motions this week. The University of Wisconsin portion of the budget has traditionally come toward the end of Joint Finance Committee action. Once done with their work, the committee refers the bill to the Legislature for Senate and Assembly approval before the it goes to Governor Tony Evers for his approval or vetoes.

State Budget Forum Tomorrow

PROFS and ASPRO [will host](#) a bipartisan forum on the state budget tomorrow at 4 pm (Tuesday, May 2) in the Wisconsin Idea Room (Room 159) in the Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall. This event is open to the public and refreshments will be served. The panel:

- [State Senator Kelda Roys](#) (D-Madison), member Joint Finance Committee
- [State Representative Robert Wittke](#) (R-Racine), member Colleges & Universities Committee
- [Crystal Potts](#), Director of State Relations, UW-Madison
- [UW-Madison Professor J. Michael Collins](#) (School of Human Ecology and La Follette School of Public Affairs) and member, PROFS Steering Committee
- [Jack O'Meara](#), PROFS Legislative Representative, moderator

Legislation PROFS is Following

- [AB 67/SB 84](#), *Merit Scholarship Bill*, PROFS registered in favor of these bills and was present when signed into law by Gov. Tony Evers. The legislation eliminated the April 1, 2023, sunset date for \$5,000 merit scholarships for qualified UW System students.
- [AB 19/SB 27](#), *Spinal Cord Research Bill*, PROFS registered in favor of these bills which directs the Department of Health Services to create a research grant program that would fund academic research on spinal cord injuries and rehabilitation. This legislation has passed in committee and is available for scheduling in the State Senate.
- [AB 26/SB 8](#) <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/proposals/sb8>, *UW MIA Identification Project Bill*, PROFS is registered in favor of this legislation which awards the UW-Madison MIA Project \$180,000 in each year of the 2023-25 biennium. This bill is available for scheduling in the State Assembly.

PROFS is also monitoring legislation that is expected to be introduced this session:

- Gun safety legislation
- [Legislation](#) that would prohibit state employees from abortion training
- [Legislation](#) relating to campus speech and academic freedom

PROFS Lobbies for Paid Family Leave

PROFS continues to lobby for paid family leave for UW-Madison employees and supports paid family leave for all workers – public and private sector. While Gov. Evers [included](#) paid family leave for state employees and most private sector workers in his budget proposal, GOP leaders have removed all policy items, including paid family leave, from the budget. PROFS will support separate legislation providing paid family leave and is working with UW-Madison leaders on ways in which the university may provide it to employees. Our statement on paid family leave is on the [PROFS website](#).

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 the [form](#) on the [PROFS website](#) to join. New members will receive a PROFS mug as a thank you.

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