



*Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.*

PROFS Statement on Joint Finance Committee Action on the UW System Capital Budget

PROFS is deeply disappointed by the action, taken by the Joint Finance Committee on Thursday, to strip the funding of the UW-Madison's Engineering building from Governor Evers' capital budget. This is a building that, as acknowledged by UW System President Jay Rothman, UW-Madison Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin, and Engineering College Dean Ian Robertson — not to mention by legislators from both sides of the aisle — is crucially needed to meet student demand, which currently outstrips the university's ability to provide an education to all qualified students.

The effect of cancelling or delaying this funding will be to make it harder for the state to attract and retain workers to the state, weakening Wisconsin's economy. It's hard to imagine why, with a nearly \$7 billion surplus, legislators would eliminate funding for this much-needed project, which was UW-Madison's highest budget priority.

PROFS is further disappointed that the Joint Finance Committee cut other important priorities for UW-Madison. Funding for the UW-Madison Humanities Art Department Relocation & Consolidation and the Music Hall Restoration & Exterior Envelope Renovation was also eliminated. Anyone familiar with the Creative Economy Model will note that support for the arts and music is just as important for economic vitality as support for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math or STEM.

PROFS asks legislators to reverse these shortsighted decisions and work to ensure a better future for UW-Madison and the entire state.

June 3, 2023