



*Representing UW-Madison Faculty.  
Strengthening Wisconsin.*

## **PROFS Statement on the 2023-25 State Budget**

Last night, the Wisconsin State Assembly, like the State Senate one day earlier, passed the 2023-25 biennial budget crafted by the Joint Finance Committee along party lines.

This budget is a step backward for many people in the state of Wisconsin and a slap in the face to the University of Wisconsin System. Not only does it not include capital funding for the UW-Madison Engineering Building or its Arts relocation project, it also strips \$32 million in General Purpose Revenue (GPR) funding from the university and mandates the elimination of nearly 200 positions dedicated to the UW System's mission to foster diverse, inclusive, and equitable campus communities.

At a time when the state is sitting on a \$7 billion budget surplus, this would have been an ideal time to invest in the UW System, which educates hundreds of thousands of the state's citizens and returns \$26 dollars to the state's economy for every dollar invested.

The Legislature could have approved the Governor Tony Evers' request of \$305 million over two years – less than five percent of the state's surplus – which had the potential to lift Wisconsin out of the bottom 20% for per-student spending for higher education. Instead, the Republican-led Legislature's action continues the years-long erosion of the quality of a UW education.

PROFS strongly urges Governor Tony Evers to take action, as it is his constitutional duty, and to reverse these actions with his veto pen.

June 30, 2023