



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.

October 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

While Governor Tony Evers [introduced](#) a budget that included middle-class tax cuts, substantial investment in UW System, and the creation of a family and medical leave program, Republican Legislative leaders opted to reject the plan and [crafted](#) their own budget. The GOP budget included no new funds for UW System, but instead cut System's budget by \$32 million, the amount they said was spent on DEI efforts Systemwide. With his [veto](#) of the budget, Gov. Evers was able to [eliminate](#) the GOP proposal to cut 200 DEI positions throughout UW System, but UW System must return to the Legislature with a plan for workforce development in order to restore the \$32 million cut.

2023-25 Pay Plan

A [pay plan](#) for state employees, including UW-Madison faculty and staff, was a bright spot in the state budget. The pay plan – a 4% raise on July 1, 2023 and a 2% raise in July 1, 2024 – must be approved by the Joint Committee on Employment Relations. PROFS [urged](#) JCOER co-chairs to meet as soon as possible so faculty and staff could receive the first increase retroactively, but Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Burlington) said he will withhold the raises until UW System eliminates all DEI positions. This is a petty, vindictive position, and PROFS is aggressively working to keep the pay plan on track.

Legislation PROFS is Following

- [AB 378/SB 377](#), *Restrictions on Transgender Athletes Bill*, PROFS is registered against these bills which would require transgender athletes to participate in sports that match the sex in which they were assigned at birth.
- [AB 247/SB 300](#), *Prohibition on use of public employees and public property for abortion activity*, PROFS is registered against this legislation which could jeopardize accreditation of the OB/GYN residency program.
- [AB 19/SB 27](#), *Spinal Cord Research Bill*, PROFS registered in favor of these bills which direct the Department of Health Services to create a research grant program to fund research on spinal cord injuries and rehabilitation.
- [AB 26/SB 8](#), *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.



PROFS is also actively lobbying on topics likely to become legislation this session: gun safety, 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 paid parental leave to employees, using HR authority given to the university by the state. 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.

 @PROFSUWMadison  PROFSUWMadison

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