



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.

November 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 Pay Plan

Earlier this summer, the Legislature [approved](#), and Governor Tony Evers [signed](#) into law funding for a state employee pay plan — a 4% raise in July 2023 and a 2% raise in July 2024. The plan required approval by the Joint Committee on Employment Relation and that approval is often given in advance of the pay plan's start date. This year, however, JCOER put off scheduling a meeting to vote on pay plans until October 17. While the Republican-led committee voted to approve the general state employee pay raises, JCOER [declined](#) to vote on the UW System employee pay plan, essentially withholding UW employee pay raises for the foreseeable future.

PROFS lobbied throughout the summer [urging](#) JCOER to meet and approve the pay plan and is grateful for the support of Democratic State Representative Greta Neubauer and State Senator Melissa Agard and Republican Senator Howard Marklein, who spoke in support of UW pay raises at the recent hearing. Other Republicans on the committee [cited](#) spending on DEI programs and a lack of legislative oversight of UW position creation were cited as concerns with UW the UW budget.

PROFS believes that UW employees deserve a compensation increase as much as other state employees and encourages others who agree to sign a [petition](#) or [communicate directly](#) with your legislator. Any communication like this must be done using a personal email on non-work time, avoiding university resources like computers and IT networks.

On October 31, Gov. Evers [announced](#) he is suing Republican lawmakers for blocking UW pay raises, conservation projects and updates to state building standards, saying GOP legislators are unconstitutionally and unlawfully obstructing basic government functions. He also told reporters that the withholding of UW raises was the defining moment in his decision to file the lawsuit.



Legislation PROFS is Following

- [AB 553/SB 575](#), *Establishes certain standards related to free speech and academic freedom at University of Wisconsin System*, PROFS is closely monitoring these bills, which would levy fines if UW or Wisconsin Tech Colleges are found to have violated a person's free speech.
- [AB 554/SB 596](#), relating to race-based higher education programs, PROFS is registered against these bills that would eliminate race-based higher education grants and certain loan programs.
- [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.

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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