



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.

February 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.

Regent Approval of UW-GOP Agreement

In December, the Regents [voted to approve](#) an [agreement](#) between the Universities of Wisconsin and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos. The agreement put an end to the months-long delay of the University of Wisconsin pay plan, which had been approved by the Legislature and signed by Governor Tony Evers in July. The agreement also will allow a number of building projects – including the much-needed UW-Madison Engineering building – to go forward and implement a financially beneficial change to the Wisconsin-Minnesota tuition reciprocity agreement.

In return, however, the university agrees to curtail its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs through position caps and reassignments, freeze new administrative positions, eliminate the current UW-Madison Targets of Opportunity faculty recruitment program. And finally, the plan requires UW-Madison to create an endowed professorship in conservative thought.

While we are pleased to see approval of the pay plan and the Engineering building, we are deeply dismayed that Speaker Vos has forced the university to the table to negotiate pieces of the budget, like the pay plan, that had already been passed by both houses of the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. And we are especially angry that Vos continues to take aim at the university's initiatives on DEI. These initiatives are central to UW's longstanding mission and to the success of the state of Wisconsin, not bargaining chips to be used to advance his narrow ideological agenda.

Our full statement on the agreement is [here](#) and PROFS President Michael Bernard-Donals' appearance on WISC-TV's For the Record in December to discuss the agreement can be watched [here](#).

PROFS Participation in Governor Evers' Lawsuit



Last fall, Gov. Evers [announced](#) he is suing Republican lawmakers for unconstitutionally and unlawfully obstructing basic government functions. PROFS supports the Governor's lawsuit and has become intervenors in the lawsuit.

Legislation PROFS is Lobbying On

- [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. This legislation has passed the Assembly.
- [AB 947/SB 857](#) and [AB 949/SB 858](#), *Relating to faculty tenure and shared governance*, PROFS originally requested these bills which would restore shared governance and tenure to state statutes. The bills are in committee.
- LRB-2739/1, *Relating to firearms on public college campuses*, PROFS [worked with](#) Rep. Deb Andraca (D-Whitefish Bay) to create this legislation which would ban firearms on UW and tech college campuses, eliminate the concealed carry exemption, and stiffen "trespassing" penalties. This legislation has been drafted but not introduced.
- [SB 983](#), *Relating to UW System fall start date*, PROFS requested this legislation that would allow UW institutions to begin class on September 1, rather than after September 1. This bill is in committee.

Join PROFS!

PROFS is funded entirely through modest monthly contributions from faculty and our success depends on broad support from the faculty. A [membership form](#) is on the PROFS website, and new members will receive a PROFS mug as a thank you.

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