



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.

March 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.

The Assembly concluded on February 22nd and the Senate plans to adjourn this month. PROFS was very busy this session working on legislation that impacts the university and faculty:

Signed into law:

- [AB 370/SB 367](#), legislation that guarantees admission to UW and the technical colleges and requires high schools to produce class rankings
- [AB 916/SB 894](#), legislation that provides \$7.5 million in funding for BioForward, Inc.

Waiting Governor's signature or veto:

- [AB 140/SB 161](#), legislation that would shift responsibility for negotiating the Wisconsin-Minnesota reciprocity agreement from the Higher Education Aids Board to UW System and require proportional distribution of funds to individual universities
- [AB 921/SB 895](#), legislation that would provide funding for several UW capital projects, including the UW-Madison Engineering Building and lakeshore dormitories
- [AB 920/SB 896](#), legislation altering the Wisconsin-Minnesota reciprocity funding agreement

May be taken up by the Senate:

- [AB 19/SB 27](#), legislation that provides funding for spinal cord research
- [AB 378/SB 377](#), legislation that would require transgender collegiate and intramural athletes to participate on teams that match the sex that they were assigned at birth
- [AB 553/SB 575](#), legislation that would establish "certain standards" for free speech, academic freedom, and due process at UW System and Wisconsin Technical College System institutions
- [AB 554/SB 596](#), legislation that would change financial aid programs that target minority students to programs that target "disadvantaged" students
- [AB 1065/SB 988](#), legislation that would prohibit loyalty pledges

Dead

- [AB 947/SB 857](#), legislation restoring strong tenure language to state statutes
- [AB 949/SB 858](#), legislation restoring strong shared governance language to state statutes
- [AB 1080/SB 892](#), legislation requested by PROFS that would align the firearms and weapons ban on campus with K-12 and other public buildings
- [AB 1081/SB 983](#), legislation requested by PROFS that would allow UW institutions to begin classes on September 1 like public K-12 schools, rather than after September 1 (current law)

Redistricting and Elections

Last month, Governor Tony Evers [signed](#) legislation that adopted his proposed legislative district maps. Republicans opted to approve those maps to avoid having the State Supreme Court draw the lines. As a result of gerrymandering, Republicans have held large legislative majorities despite the state being evenly split between political parties. The new lines have created more competitive districts, giving Democrats a chance to win a majority in the Assembly where all seats are up for election in November. Only half the Senate is up for re-election, so a new Democratic majority is unlikely.

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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