



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.

April 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 Legislature concluded its spring floor period and has no plans to meet again until after the November elections. PROFS actively lobbied and followed these bills over the past few months:

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, *registered in favor*. PROFS Board Chair Susan Thibeault and lobbyist Jack O'Meara attended the bill signing with Governor Evers.
- AB 916/SB 894, legislation that provides \$7.5 million in funding for BioForward, Inc., *registered in favor*
- 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, *registered in favor*
- AB 921/SB 896, legislation that would provide funding for several UW capital projects, including the UW-Madison Engineering Building and lakeshore dormitories, *registered in favor*
- AB 920/SB 896, legislation altering the Wisconsin-Minnesota reciprocity funding agreement, *registered in favor*

Vetoed by Governor Evers:

- AB 1065/SB 988, legislation that would prohibit loyalty pledges, *registered against*
- AB 610/SB 920, legislation relating to vaccine requirements, *registered against*

Universities of Wisconsin and the Board of Regents

Last month, the GOP-led Senate failed to approve two of Governor Evers' appointees to the Board of Regents despite having strong committee approval. Regent appointees John Miller and Dana Wachs, appointed by the governor in 2021 and 2022, respectively, had voted against the UW-GOP compromise on the capital building projects and DEI efforts in December 2023. The Senate also declined to vote on Regent Vice President Amy Blumenfeld Bogost, who was also supported in committee. Appointed by Evers in 2019, she will continue to serve as a Regent appointee.

Also last month, UW-Milwaukee Chancellor Mark Mone announced the Waukesha two-year campus affiliated with UWM will close in 2025, resulting in the layoff of about 100 faculty and staff. PROFS reminds the Board of Regents and Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman that Regent policy and the principles of shared governance must be followed as UWM plans for the closure of the Waukesha campus.

PROFS Forum on Flagships, April 24

PROFS will host a forum on the role flagship universities play and how flagships are adapting in a time of budget pressures. The forum will be held at 4 pm, Wednesday, April 24 in the Education Building. There will be ample time for questions, and we are expecting a robust conversation. Our panel:

- UW-Madison Professor Taylor Odle, (Educational Policy Studies)
- University of Minnesota Professor David Weerts (Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development)
- Journalist Elaine Povich (Stateline).

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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Public Representation Organization of the Faculty Senate University of Wisconsin–Madison

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