



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.  
Strengthening Wisconsin.

August 19, 2024

Amy B. Bogost  
President, UW Board of Regents  
1860 Van Hise Hall  
1220 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706

Jay O. Rothman  
President, Universities of Wisconsin  
1720 Van Hise Hall  
1220 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706

**Request for Regents to approve Governor Evers' request for \$800 million for UW System**

Dear Presidents Bogost and Rothman:

PROFS represents the UW-Madison faculty. It is our understanding that the UW System Board of Regents will take up a proposal for the 2025-27 state budget as early as later this week. PROFS encourages the board to approve the \$800 million proposal that Governor Evers presented to the board in June.

The Governor encouraged the Regents to support a plan to provide the Universities of Wisconsin with \$400 million in each year of the upcoming biennium, saying "We are here today at a critical juncture in the UW System's history. We must make historic and significant investments in this next biennial budget if we're going to prevent further degradation of the UW system. Being 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation in state support does not cut it."

Following the Governor's presentation, President Rothman noted that Wisconsin now ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in terms of state support and tuition dollars.

Governor Evers noted accurately that, for more than a decade, there has been a "war" waged on public higher education in Wisconsin, resulting in campus closures, staff and faculty layoffs, program cuts, and consolidation. He said that UW System has increasingly been used "as a political punching bag" and that it is time for the state to start supporting the Universities of Wisconsin.

With a state budget surplus of more than \$3 billion, Wisconsin can afford the \$800 million investment. The truth is the state cannot afford to not make the investment. After all, as many Regents and others have said on numerous occasions, the Universities of Wisconsin are the engines that drive our state's economy.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure a strong future for UW-Madison and all the Universities of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Bernard-Donals", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Bernard-Donals  
Professor of English and Jewish Studies  
President, PROFS Steering Committee