

PROFS Statement on Faculty Workload Requirements in the State Budget Proposal

PROFS, the Public Representation Organization of the UW-Madison Faculty Senate, opposes the Omnibus Motion on the state budget, in particular the section for the Universities of Wisconsin on faculty credit hours (item 9).

It is an overreach on the part of the Legislature and the Governor that would intrude on the responsibilities of both institutions and their faculty members, who are by law charged with administering and making policy for the educational mission of the universities. It would treat credit hours as interchangeable, making no distinction between the research and teaching missions in different disciplines and units, fail to account for the administrative roles of faculty and instructional staff members, and ignore the many ways that faculty and staff at UW institutions provide support to their students that go beyond the strict arithmetic of credit hours. Further, this provision would hurt our competitiveness in attracting and retaining high-level faculty, especially in STEM disciplines.

We urge the Legislature to strip this policy out of the budget.

July 2, 2025