



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.

October 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 almost 50 years ago, PROFS provides a voice to faculty, allowing them to communicate directly with the governor, legislators, and members of Congress.

Federal Update & Government Shutdown

The unprecedented federal [attack](#) on higher education persists and PROFS continues to work with leaders on campus and communicate with members of the Wisconsin Congressional delegation. We are currently surveying PROFS members about how federal actions are impacting their teaching and research. Please use this link to share your experiences: <https://forms.gle/iPRReGikPAHyURXj6>. We are also following the effects of the federal shutdown, and our lobbyist, Jack O'Meara, will be in Washington, D.C. to meet with members and staff of the Wisconsin Congressional delegation.

Faculty Minimum Workload Policy

PROFS is deeply concerned about a mandatory [faculty workload policy](#) that was included in the state budget and is now part of state statutes. The policy, to go into effect next September, will require UW-Madison faculty to teach a minimum of 12 credit hours per academic year, with an additional 3 credit summer minimum for those on 12-month appointments. Faculty may "buy out" some teaching time with research grant money, while department chairs will have a lower minimum.

PROFS [lobbied](#) against this policy, but the provision remained in the budget and was not vetoed by Gov. Evers. A Board of Regents workgroup, including a UW-Madison faculty member, is developing guidelines to provide exceptions to the statutory language before a December 1 deadline. PROFS remains active in these discussions as part of our campaign to produce the best possible result for faculty.

Legislation

PROFS is actively lobbying or monitoring on the following bills:

- Campus speech bills ([LRB-0621](#))
- MIA Recovery Project ([AB 428/SB 411](#)), registered in favor
- Spinal cord research ([AB 92/SB 99](#)), registered in favor
- UW start date (not introduced), in favor
- Tuition/CPI ([AB 406/SB 399](#)), monitoring
- Guns on campus ([AB 427/SB 429](#)), registered in favor
- Definition of Antisemitism ([AB 446/SB 445](#)), registered against. Position statement on PROFS website.

2025-27 State Budget

Democratic Governor Tony Evers and Republican legislative leaders crafted a [bipartisan](#) compromise state budget that included a \$256 million increase to UW System's operating budget, substantially less than the Board of Regents' [\\$855 million request](#), but not the expected [\\$87 million](#) cut favored by Republicans. [\\$100 million](#) of the funds will be directed to stabilizing UW System campuses statewide, while \$94 million will fund a 5% employee pay increase (3% this year and 2% next year). \$54 million will go toward faculty recruitment and retention efforts.

Join PROFS!

PROFS is funded entirely through modest payroll contributions from faculty and needs the support of all faculty to be most successful. Please use the membership form on our [website](#) (profs.wisc.edu) to join. New members will receive a PROFS mug as a thank you.



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