



*Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.*

The Effect of Federal Orders on University of Wisconsin-Madison Faculty

Earlier this fall, PROFS (Public Representation Organization of the Faculty Senate), invited its members to complete a brief survey on how federal executive actions taken since President Donald Trump took office have impacted their teaching and research. About 15 percent of the membership responded to all or part of the survey. The key themes:

Some faculty have already experienced substantial disruptions, affecting the quality and sustainability of their research and teaching:

- Faculty are experiencing disruptions in opportunities to future research funding
- Current research has been impacted by new regulations on existing grants and staffing challenges
- Cuts in graduate admissions and immigration policies have hurt student recruitment and retention

Faculty are also experiencing a high level of uncertainty with regard to the future:

- Federal research funding and support
- Teaching and academic freedom
- Teaching loads and teaching-related support
- Funding for graduate students and programs
- Potential threats to student wellbeing

Widespread uncertainty is changing how faculty approach their work:

- Abandoning public outreach and research plans, especially federal grants applications
- Experiencing a lack of support for teaching key but potentially divisive topics, thus limiting opportunities for students to consider and discuss multiple perspectives
- Abandoning plans for recruiting and working with students, both graduate and undergraduate

The current situation may lead to substantial losses of faculty and other instructional staff:

- Many faculty are considering retiring early, leaving UW-Madison, leaving the US to pursue international academic positions, or leaving academia altogether
- Faculty are also considering leaving UW-Madison due to new faculty workload policies required by the state legislature

Faculty call on administrators and legislators to defend UW-Madison and academia as a whole:

- Focus on the minimum teaching load policy
- UW should do the utmost to legally support faculty and protect academic freedom in the classroom

PROFS is sharing this information to illustrate what is at stake if these cuts and attacks on academic freedom persist. Dane County is widely recognized as the economic engine for the state, in large part due to UW-Madison.

- UW-Madison has an annual [\\$31 billion impact](#) on the state's economy
- UW-Madison generates [\\$1 billion in state and local taxes](#)
- Until these federal cuts, UW-Madison [received](#) 25-percent of its total budget from federal funding compared to just 13-percent from the state