



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.  
Strengthening Wisconsin.

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

### Legislative Update

The Assembly has adjourned and is not expected back in regular session until 2027, and the Senate is expected to meet in its final session during the week of March 16. The state currently has a \$2.5 billion budget surplus, and both Governor Evers and Republican legislative leaders have expressed a willingness to call a special or extraordinary session to address K-12 school funding (Gov. Evers) and/or a tax rebate (GOP leaders).

PROFS is following several bills that could possibly be voted on in the Senate, reach the governor, or have a public hearing before the Senate adjourns:

- PROFS-requested legislation that would allow UW to begin classes on September 1 rather than after September 1 (LRB 2533/P1), expected March 4 public hearing.
- Definition of Antisemitism ([AB 446/SB 445](#)), registered against. Passed the Assembly 66-33 and awaiting Senate scheduling. Our testimony on the PROFS [website](#).
- Campus speech bills ([AB 501/SB 498](#)), registered against. Passed the Senate and Assembly and awaiting action by Gov. Evers. Our testimony is on the PROFS [website](#).
- Change in race-based higher ed program, ([AB 669/SB 652](#)), registered against. Passed the Assembly and Senate and awaiting action by Gov. Evers.
- Allow non-faculty to be department chairs, ([AB 757/SB 751](#)), registered no position. Passed the Senate.
- Sets requirements and conditions for name, image and likeness compensation for UW student athletes and provides \$14.6 million per year this biennium for UW-Madison athletic facilities, ([AB 1034/SB 1075](#)), Passed the Assembly 95-1 and awaiting Senate action.

### Upcoming Events

PROFS regularly hosts events on topics important to UW-Madison faculty. A late spring event is in the planning stages, and we also plan to host at least one candidate forum for Madison area legislative candidates.

### Join PROFS

In 1976, a handful of UW-Madison faculty worked with the Faculty Senate to create PROFS with the requirement that at least half the faculty join PROFS as a condition of its creation. In recent years, PROFS membership has dipped below that threshold. As we mark our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, please consider [joining](#) PROFS if you are not already a member. Contributions are modest (one-tenth of one percent of your pay) and easy (a payroll deduction taken each pay period). New members will receive a PROFS mug as a small token of appreciation.

March 2, 2026