



*Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.*

PROFS Continues Its Advocacy for UW-Madison Faculty

PROFS, the Public Representation Organization of the (UW-Madison) Faculty Senate, has been advocating for faculty since its creation by the Faculty Senate in 1976. The political landscapes in the state and country have shifted many times, and they will shift again. Through it all, PROFS continues to make the case to decision-makers about the importance and value of UW-Madison faculty to the people of Wisconsin and the nation. Following are examples of recent successes for PROFS.

- **Competitive compensation for faculty:** Since its inception, PROFS has made competitive compensation for faculty one of its top lobbying priorities. Despite a series of very difficult budgets, PROFS played a key role in ensuring that the Legislature and Governor Tony Evers have provided consistent pay plans, which – along with other centrally-funded initiatives – have helped bring UW-Madison salaries to the median of our peers, something the university had long hoped for, but previously seemed like an unreachable goal. During the 2025-27 budget process, PROFS successfully lobbied for the implementation of a [5% pay increase](#) spread over two years.
- **Communicating with federal officials and working to replace lost federal research funding:** PROFS has a long history of working with members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation. Recently, PROFS has been communicating with the delegation about the problems created by cuts to federal research funding. UW-Madison has lost in excess of \$200 million per year. Along with others who support research and the economic impact that comes with that research, PROFS is [reaching out](#) to candidates for governor and the Legislature, encouraging them to support creative ways to keep research going.
- **Paid family leave:** PROFS has worked hard over several years in support of the successful implementation of paid parental leave for UW-Madison and Universities of Wisconsin employees, and we [strongly support](#) paid family leave for all workers in Wisconsin, public and private. While Governor Evers included 8 weeks paid family leave for state employees in his 2025-27 state budget, GOP legislative leaders removed the final proposal.
- **Tuition authority returned to Board of Regents:** One of the biggest challenges confronting UW-Madison and the Universities of Wisconsin had been a years-long, state-imposed in-state tuition freeze. Heading into the 2021-23 state budget process, most believed that eliminating the freeze was not possible. But PROFS successfully lobbied for an end to the freeze in 2021, while also lobbying for an increase in financial aid for needy students.
- **[New law](#) with streamlined process for faculty-owned businesses and non-profits to work with UW:** 2019 Wisconsin Act 38 arose out of the work of a PROFS subcommittee of entrepreneurial faculty. Prior to 2019, Wisconsin suffered at a serious competitive disadvantage because of outdated laws that restricted the ability of the university to contract with companies and non-profits in which faculty or staff have financial interest.
- **Better benefits for faculty:** PROFS successfully advocated to give faculty and staff health insurance coverage upon hiring (state law had a six-month waiting period), to [allow](#) pre-tax pension payments (which saves the average faculty member \$1800 per year), and domestic partner benefits.
- **Important university building projects:** PROFS lobbies for the university's building needs. We [fought hard](#) for a new Engineering Building that was funded in the 2023-25 state budget and helped secure support for the newly-opened Letters and Science building and the Chemistry Building.

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