



PUBLIC REPRESENTATION ORGANIZATION OF THE FACULTY SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

258 Bascom Hall
500 Lincoln Drive
Madison, WI 53706
608/263-9273

Fall 2008

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external fellowships and traineeships.

Much of the current debate on the issue traces back to the report of UW-Madison's Tuition Remission Task Force, which concluded that department budgets would have to pay \$8,000 per graduate student assistant per year for tuition remission. The surcharge applied to Project Assistants and Research Assistants. It was a substantial increase over the prior assessment, which amounted to 25% of the assistant's stipend.

The increased cost to departments is problematic due to the nature of how research grants are distributed. Those in the humanities, arts and some social science fields often have smaller and fewer granting sources, and are therefore unable to fund large remissions.

Graduate Education Initiative Included in Regents' 2009-11 Budget Proposal

After a lot of hard work and extensive advocacy on the part of graduate students and faculty members, a proposal to provide much-needed funding for graduate education at UW-Madison was included in the UW Board of Regents' recently-released budget proposal for the 2009-2011 biennium.

The budget proposal – known as a “Decision Item Narrative” or DIN – would provide \$5.25 million in state funding for graduate education costs. Specifically, the DIN is designed to secure National Institutes of Health (NIH), Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS), and other

PROFS President Louise Robbins (Chair, Library & Information Studies) and other PROFS leaders have made it clear that addressing the graduate education funding problem is a top priority for PROFS.

Graduate students and faculty members have been active participants in the Council for Affordable Public Education (CAPE), a group that is working to find a resolution to the problem. It was CAPE's advocacy that led to the development of the graduate education DIN, which was created at UW-Madison and then moved to the UW System.

This summer, PROFS lobbyist Jack O'Meara and the PROFS leadership met with UW System President Kevin Reilly and Regent Brent Smith, chair of the Board of Regents Business, Finance and Audit Committee, to make the case for the budget proposal and other proposed budget initiatives.

PROFS will continue to work with CAPE on approaches to dealing with the graduate education funding issue.

Other Items in the UW System Budget

The budget approved by the regents also includes the following sources of new funding:

- \$73.1 million for “cost to continue” – the ongoing cost of things like the pay plan approved in the current biennium
- \$50.9 million for the “Growth Agenda” designed to increase the number of college graduates in the state (UW-Madison gets only a minimal portion of this funding)

- \$10 million for the Faculty Recruitment and Retention Fund (UW-Madison currently receives slightly more than half of this funding)
- \$6 million for libraries
- \$237 million in General Fund Supported Borrowing for Major Projects

State Budget Outlook Worsens

Along with the rest of the country, Wisconsin is facing an economic downturn, which is having a negative impact on our budget projections. Governor Jim Doyle recently predicted that we could be facing as much as a \$3 billion deficit in the next budget.

Even with the bleak budget outlook, PROFS is committed to pushing for the best possible budget outcomes for the university. We will continue to meet with key policymakers and make the case for

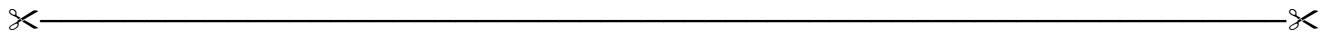
supporting the university. We will remind them that the university is the economic engine for the state, and an educated work force is the key to our future.

Please Contact Governor Doyle!

The UW System budget is a recommendation to the governor and legislators for the next state budget, which begins July 1, 2009. Governor Doyle is expected to propose his 2009-2011 budget early next year.

It is essential for Governor Doyle to hear from faculty and others in the university community about the importance of supporting UW-Madison. Please contact him.

Governor Jim Doyle
 P.O. Box 7863
 Madison, WI 53707-7863
 608-266-1212
governor@wisconsin.gov



PLEASE JOIN PROFS TODAY!

PROFS, Inc. is the voice of the UW-Madison faculty in working with the Legislature, state officials, federal officials, and the general public. Our work is never-ending. We thank the 1,000+ members of PROFS who support our efforts. We need the support of the entire faculty to have greater impact. All faculty not currently affiliated with PROFS are invited to join the organization by filling out the dues coupon below and sending it to 258 Bascom Hall.

PROFS, Inc. PAYROLL DEDUCTION

NAME OF EMPLOYEE _____ **Department** _____

In order to activate your deduction, the payroll department requires the following:

1) The last four digits of your Social Security Number _____ **AND**

2) Your Date of Birth _____

I hereby authorize the University of Wisconsin to deduct from my salary each month of the academic year (September through May payrolls) a voluntary contribution to PROFS, Inc. of 1/10 of one percent of my gross salary for that month. This authorization will remain in effect each year until a notice of cancellation is received by the UW-Madison Payroll Office.

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This authorization should be forwarded to 258 Bascom Hall.