



Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.

October 30, 2009

Rep. Kelda Helen Roys
P.O. Box 8953
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Roys:

PROFS, the Public Representation Organization of the Faculty Senate, represents the faculty at UW-Madison. PROFS supports your Smart Furlough legislation that would require furloughs of state employees only if doing so would result in net savings to the state.

We want to emphasize that, throughout the discussions over the 2009-2011 state budget, the UW-Madison faculty have been willing to do our part to help the state deal with its severe budget situation. We are committed to making sure our university and our state are financially sound as we continue to plan for the future. But a blanket furlough that has the effect of rejecting federal and private funding simply doesn't make sense.

It is important to remember that UW-Madison is second in the nation in total research expenditures, attracting more than \$900 million annually thanks to the faculty, staff and graduate students at the university. UW-Madison professors bring in an average of \$440,000 in external grants. With our fragile economy, we should be looking for ways to preserve and increase research funding, not rejecting it.

Please note that the Smart Furlough legislation would provide furlough relief to a much greater number of academic staff than faculty because many more staff are paid with federal and private dollars. Nevertheless, we on the faculty support the proposal because we believe it is the right thing to do.

As you know, the university's furlough plans for 2009-2010 are already being implemented. Many faculty and staff have already taken their flexible furlough time. In order to cause the least amount of disruption and treat employees in similar situations fairly, we are hopeful the Smart Furlough legislation can be implemented at the start of the next fiscal year (July 1, 2010).

We commend you for your commitment to this legislation. We stand ready to assist in any way we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Salmons".

Joseph Salmons
PROFS President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William A. Tracy".

William Tracy
Chair, PROFS Board of Directors