

Highlights for MORFS presentation

1. In 2019, UW-Milwaukee faculty were given the authority (by UW-System and Governor Evers) to direct payroll deductions toward a 501 (c) (6) organization called the “Milwaukee Organization Representing the Faculty Senate” (MORFS) whose operation is envisioned following that of a similar UW-Madison faculty organization (the Public Representation Organization of the Faculty Senate, PROFS) which has existed since the 1970s.
2. MORFS will engage in direct lobbying to influence political decision-making, and thus represent the interests of our campus faculty in the public arena. The University Committee will serve as the Board of Directors for this organization, and (after implementation) a Steering Committee will be created to engage broad faculty participation. Thus, this organization will be a way to amplify the voice of existing faculty governance through the power of direct lobbying activities.
3. UW-Milwaukee faculty have been asked to pledge one-, two- or three-tenths of 1% of their annual salary each year in support of MORFS. For example, a one-tenth pledge for someone making \$80,000 per year would mean an annual contribution of \$80.
4. In order to marshal enough resources to be viable, MORFS needs to collect enough pledges to secure an annual budget of at least \$20,000 before it becomes active. The pledge drive began late last year, and so far, has resulted in 58 pledges with a total of almost \$7500. I want to emphasize that no funds will be collected from payroll deduction until the goal is reached and an implementation plan is approved by the Faculty Senate.
5. The pledge drive was disrupted by the closure of campus this spring but will continue in the next (2020-2021) academic year.
6. There is potential for considerable change in the political landscape in the November 2020 election and with the 2020 redistricting process on both the State and National level. Thus, there is cause for some optimism that the pendulum will continue to move in a direction more favorable to faculty priorities, once the COVID-19 crisis is behind us. MORFS can help us amplify our voices in this environment!
7. I urge you to spread the word about and support this effort! You can make a pledge by completing and emailing the form (available on the UCNEWS webpage) directly to me. The sensitive information (last 4 of SS# and birth date) can be left blank for now, to avoid any security risk.