

## U of I graduate instructors go on strike

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URBANA — Officials at the University of Illinois say classes are continuing after graduate instructors went on strike.

University spokeswoman Robin Kaler says individual instructors may not be showing up for class, but she doesn't know how often that's happening. Nor does she know of any faculty members canceling classes because of the strike.

The strike began Monday morning, after weekend contract negotiations broke down over the issue of whether teaching assistants would be allowed to attend the university for free.

Graduate instructors receive full or partial tuition waivers, but the union wants greater protection against efforts to reduce or eliminate those waivers. Kaler said there are no such plans.

The strike hasn't been felt at the U of I Springfield because graduate assistants are handled differently at each campus.

"We do not have any graduate assistants not showing up for work today," said Leslie DeFrates, assistant to the vice chancellor for graduate education and research at UIS. "We don't use graduate assistants as instructors of record," she said. "We do have teaching assistants, but they assist professors in areas such as tutoring and grading papers."

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