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U. of I. schools' furloughs expected to save \$17 mil.

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BY [DAVE NEWBART](#) Staff Reporter

In an unprecedented action, more than 11,000 employees at the University of Illinois will be required to take between four and ten unpaid furlough days.

Faculty, coaches and academic staff at the school's Chicago, Urbana-Champaign and Springfield campuses will be required to take four days off by May. Some 100 top administrators, including many making more than \$200,000, will have to take 10 days off by June. The move will save \$17 million, officials said.

Workers who earn less than \$30,000 won't participate.

Although the school won't prohibit professors from taking off on a day when a class is scheduled, president Stanley Ikenberry said at a news conference Tuesday that "we don't expect that [the furloughs] will affect classes." University spokesman Tom Hardy said other faculty or graduate assistants -- who aren't required to take the furloughs -- could teach the impacted course.

U. of I. officials say they were forced to take "drastic" action because the state hasn't -- or can't -- pay its bills. The university has only received 7 percent of its state appropriation for fiscal year 2010, which began in July. The school is still owed \$436 million.

Although the state is making plans to borrow money to pay its debts, a statement on Illinois Comptroller Daniel Hynes' Web site says the state's "level of unpaid obligations ... stands at \$4.4 billion and will continue to grow as there is simply insufficient revenues to meet all the demands."

Although unprecedented, the school has been planning this action since at least the summer, as the state's budget woes worsened. Ikenberry did say that if the state "magically" came up with the money owed officials would try to repay employees.

The university also imposed a hiring freeze and other moves designed to cut \$82 million from its budget.

[Register mandates third round of furloughs](#)

From Iowa Independent

[Are Furloughs Penny Wise But Pound Foolish?](#)

From The Moderate Voice

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