TO: UW-Platteville Faculty and Instructional Academic Staff

FROM: D. Joanne Wilson  
Chair, 80 Day Academic Post-Tornado Team

RE: Plans for Fall 2014

DATE: July 9, 2014

On behalf of the Academic Post-Tornado Team (APTT), I want to thank you for your patience as we make new plans for the Fall 2014 semester as a result of the June 16 tornado taking facilities off-line, with Engineering Hall the primary academic facility impacted. We continue to adjust our thoughts as we hear more information from the facilities team and we are actually quite positive right now as we move forward.

While we are not guaranteed anything at this time, with respect to Engineering Hall, the news from contractors is that the new roof will be installed in late July and that the classrooms that were destroyed are being framed. Replacements for the classroom technology that was damaged will be ordered by the end of this week. Reports from the lab managers that work in Engineering Hall indicate that the lab equipment was not damaged. Interim Dean Muslu has been providing all of the information that we need to make good decisions about the classes that have accompanying labs.

The July 7 update for the campus provided the following information: “Contingency plans for the non-engineering classes in Engineering Hall are being developed by the Registrar’s Office. As changes are recorded in PASS, an e-mail is generated to the students affected the change. These classes may be moved back to Engineering Hall should the classrooms be ready for the start of classes.” Since then, this process has been modified so that students will also have the information provided through their PASS Express accounts.

The APPT has identified spaces that can be used as classrooms and that are open on campus in the Fall semester. It is our intention to move classes that have no ties to the labs in the building to these spaces, as appropriate. We will start the process this week. If you have a class that is moved, you will be contacted. We believe that this will cause less disruption for you if the building remains closed longer than we anticipate. If on August 1 the news is that we cannot occupy the building by September 1, we will have to move all classes and labs. If the building is completely re-opened at a later date, you may choose to move back into the building, as the July 7 update noted.

Dean Throop and I have been working with Matt Gregg, the Director of the Marching Pioneers, and I believe we have created a positive plan to continue the Fall semester activities with only a minimum amount of disruption.
We understand that there are over 40 faculty and staff that do not have access to their office spaces. We will work with you to find alternative spaces, if we will not have access to the building by the fall semester contract date, August 21. We have many ideas, and have saved spaces and open offices to make this work for you. Again, our decision date for these contingency plans will be August 1.

The 80 Day APP Team consists of Deans, Assistant and Associate Deans, Campus Planning, and Registrar’s office, Admissions, advising and MTS staff. We meet twice a week, and re-visit our plans each time. Please note that we are doing everything we can to minimize the disruption to your plans, except donning hard hats and helping with the construction.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me, Joanne Wilson, Team Leader, at wilsonj@uwplatt.edu.

Thanks again for your patience.