

David Turk

Board Chair, Richland County Board of Supervisors (*sent via email*)

Chairman Turk,

In January of 2023, President Rothman announced that in-person education would no longer be provided at the Richland County campus due to low enrollment numbers. Following the announcement, I was directed to work with you and community leaders to evaluate viable options for the Universities of Wisconsin to maintain a presence on the campus. Despite significant efforts, meetings, and discussions with various stakeholders, the parties recognized by fall of 2023 that no viable options existed. At that point, we began to work on a temporary agreement to reflect a reduced footprint and presence on the campus by allowing Richland School District to move into East Hall, and for that building to be removed from the MOU. It is also our understanding that the school district is interested in taking possession of the gym for use by the high school.

I am writing today to inform you that after careful consideration, and despite tremendous efforts expended by Richland County and the Universities of Wisconsin over these past many months, UW-Platteville will completely vacate the Richland County campus by July 1, 2024. While we are disappointed that we were unable to find a path forward, we also know this change can provide significant new opportunities in Richland County.

As you know, Governor Evers has recently signed into law legislation authored by Representative Kurtz and Senator Marklein which would provide \$2 million to any county where a branch campus has been closed. Once we finalize the end of our MOU, it is our understanding that Richland County would be eligible for these funds which can be used to redevelop the campus facilities to better serve the community. This potential investment by the State of Wisconsin represents the full consideration of the costs expressed by Richland County.

Our next objective is to establish a systematic process for transitioning the management of the campus facilities back to your team. Additionally, we need to plan for handling assets that will remain on the campus. To start this process, UW-Platteville drafted the attached memo outlining the steps they will take between now and July 1, and an inventory of items on campus. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Jeff Buhrandt

Vice President for University Relations  
Universities of Wisconsin

**TO:** David Turk, Board Chair, Richland County Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Jeff Buhrandt, Vice President for University Relations, Universities of Wisconsin  
**DATE:** April 23, 2024  
**RE:** UW-Platteville Richland Center

In order to meet the terms set forth in the attached letter from President Jay Rothman, the University of Wisconsin-Platteville will:

- Maintain building oversight and status checks until June 30, 2024.
- Maintain financial responsibility for utility services through June 30, 2024.
- Conduct limited grounds maintenance until June 30, 2024.
- Conduct limited custodial support of buildings until June 30, 2024.
- Consolidate library materials with UW-Platteville in accordance with the Universities of Wisconsin guidelines.
- Coordinate with the Richland Foundation, UW Richland Alumni Association, and local theater groups to remove their items and memorabilia by May 15, 2024.
- Remove UW-Platteville fleet vehicles and miscellaneous items by May 15, 2024.
- Collect keys from UW-Platteville staff and provide them to Richland County on July 1, 2024.
- Discontinue internet and Wi-Fi, including removal of firewalls and out-of-band equipment no later than June 30, 2024.

The university is willing to transfer the remaining contents i.e. furnishings, fixtures, equipment and miscellaneous items (excluding maintenance and information technology necessary for operations through June 30) to the County under Wis. Admin. Code § DOA 11.06(2)(2024). Please notify Jeff Buhrandt by May 15, 2024, if the County would like to take possession of the contents.

If the County does not desire to take possession of the contents, the university intends to remove all remaining contents beginning May 16, 2024, with completion no later than June 30, 2024.

Land and associated improvements including utilities, water, etc. will become the responsibility of county effective July 1, 2024.

*\*Please note, all hazardous items were removed from the Science Building in July 2023.*