Portable classrooms open for spring

In fact, the “soft” demolition of Building 8, along with that of Buildings 1 and 2, will happen during the semester, Birch said. This will mostly involve the removal of internal structures. Some of the materials taken from the buildings, such as redwood, will be repurposed and used in the reconstruction of the academic buildings.

With the demolition and continued construction on campus, Birch said students can expect to see a lot of trucks on campus. While efforts are being made to keep routes open and inconvenience to a minimum, access to the upper campus will be affected by the work.

The main staircase will be closed, and a four-way gate system will be erected between the baseball field and Building 9. “It will be open for pedestrian traffic 95 percent of the time,” Birch said, although she acknowledged that students could end up delayed at the gate for five to 10 minutes to allow truck access to the demolition site. The gate will be staffed by a flagman.

There will be no classes at the Fremont campus during the summer semester. All classes and services will be shifted over to the Newark campus. The final demolition of Buildings 1, 2 and 8 will happen during that time.

Students won’t be missing out on any dramatic uses of explosive charges in the demolition of the 40-year-old buildings, though. “As exciting as that would be, no, they will be taken care of internally,” Birch said. “It’s safer that way.”

A large puddle forms in Building 1 on Tuesday, reinforcing the need to repair dilapidated buildings.