Important update for faculty

### New look, new features
SUNY Plattsburgh will be upgrading to Moodle 2.4 on May 23, 2013. That change will introduce...

- a new look (larger and more colorful icons throughout);
- new resources and activities; and
- new settings options for existing activities.

### Moodle home page
The Course Overview block is now configurable: when customizing your page, you can specify how many courses it should show and also specify the sequence in which the courses are displayed.

The assignment notifications beneath the course titles in the block are expandable so you can see additional details when you wish.

The Trouble Report block now contains an Ask a Question link that lets you send a quick inquiry to Instructional Technology staff.

### Course site changes
Simpler management

Moodle 2.4 changes help to simplify the management of your course sites. Adding and removing topic blocks is now as easy as clicking an icon at the bottom of the course page.

While editing your course content, you’ll find, in addition to redesigned icons, a new option that allows you to re-title a resource or activity without opening the settings.

The old Add a Resource and Add an Activity dropdowns have been combined and replaced with a single link that introduces all activity and resource options.

Users of up-to-date Firefox and Internet Explorer browsers can drag files from their computers right into their course sites without going through the Add a Resource mechanism.

### New course blocks
The Remote RSS Feeds block, available via the Add a Block dropdown menu, makes it possible for you to add relevant and topical news feeds to your course sites.

A new Engagement Analytics block provides you with a quick view of student engagement, flagging for your attention students who may be at risk of falling behind.

### Managing your classes
Managing your classes in Moodle gets a boost with the new Attendance and Scheduler activities. The first of these lets you manage attendance records, optionally tying these to a grade-book entry; the second lets you allow students to sign up for scheduled meeting slots.

### New and Enhanced Modules
A new Book resource lets you create printable multi-chapter documents. A single Assignment now takes the place of the old quartet of assignment types, providing enhanced grading (via Rubric or the new Marking Guide), and allowing you to assign individual extensions on assignments. New Quiz settings allow you to specify a “Cutoff Date” for submissions and to dictate how (or whether) late submissions should be processed.

### Workshops and Training
For more in-depth information and training, please register for an Instructional Technology workshop:

- facweb.plattsburgh.edu/workshops

Or, contact Instructional Technology:

- Phone: (518) 564-2446
- Email: instructional.technology@plattsburgh.edu
- Web: plattsburgh.edu/technology/it/index.php
- Moodle overview:
  plattsburgh.edu/academics/onlinelearning/moodle.php