Here are some questions and thoughts that came out of the University Assembly and related discussions:

1. **What if I am in a classroom/office/space that doesn’t have a lockable door, or the door opens out?** Great question.  The recommendation is to turn off lights, spread out in the room out of visible sightlines/windows, and possibly barricade the door.  Remember, the shooter is looking to have a large amount of casualties in the shortest amount of time.  As unpleasant as this sounds, they do not particularly care whom they harm.  They are indiscriminate.  So if your classroom/ office/ space looks as if it is empty, has few or no targets, will prevent difficulty for the shooter to enter (even if unlocked, hence the barricade), they will most likely look elsewhere.  The hope is that all locations are like this, and the shooter would harm no one.  The guideline is this – the longer we can delay the shooter, the better it is, because once law enforcement arrives, the shooters nearly always take their own lives.  So the clock is ticking, and we want to make it as difficult as possible on the shooter.
2. **How will I know if the drill has started?**  In the buildings equipped with a public address system (Lewis and Parmer Halls), we will make a verbal announcement.  We will be also utilizing our ENS (emergency notification system) to alert the entire campus.  Since many of the spaces on our campus do not have the public address system, the only notification you will get will be via email and/or text alert.  In past drills and with other research from other schools, this can be effective, because everyone’s phone goes off at once, usually alerting occupants that something is going on.  It is our desire that in the next few years that all buildings get equipped with a PA system.
3. **What if I am in some public area of the university (library, cafeteria, gym, etc.)?** If clear passage to an outdoor exit exists, utilize it, and proceed to large, public areas away from buildings.  Shooters like to be in buildings and/or enclosed spaces.  They cannot accomplish their goals by traversing large, open spaces, as it alerts people to what they are doing, and people can get away too easily.
4. **What if I am in an area where there is no safe exit to outside?**  Unless you are directly confronted with the shooter, do your best to hide and be completely silent.  Utilize your phone to give location to 911/law enforcement, if possible, then shut it off.  Do not use your phone if you think the noise will give away your location.  Again, the shooter is not particularly looking for you and/or a certain individual.  They don’t want to spend what little time they have looking into small areas for one person.  They want a crowd – research supports that shooters go to large classrooms, cafeterias, etc.
5. **What if I am in an enclosed space with the shooter?**  This is obviously a worst-case scenario.  This is a situation where one would physically need to confront the shooter.  If you are with others, work together on a plan.  Such as “Let’s all throw our book-bags once he/she enters”; or “You two grab the right arms, we’ll grab the left, and the last two pull the gun away.”  We recognize these are incredibly difficult things to consider, discuss, formulate, etc. but there is consider power in numbers, and the shooter is not anticipating getting into a fight. These shooters are most likely not trained fighters/soldiers. They frequently don’t shoot well.  Use this as an ally.
6. **Will there be an evaluation following the drill?**  Yes, the Emergency Response Team is very interested in getting your feedback, and seeing how it went, where our university can improve, etc.  Please check your email in the days that follow.
7. **Why would I turn off my phone? I want to message loved ones. And if my phone is off, how will I know when an event is over?** After electing one member of your group (if you are with others) to contact 911, everyone should turn their phones off, not just silent them. This is for two reasons: First, you don’t wnat accidentally make noise by typing/texting, potentially dropping your phone, etc.; and second, you need to be 100% focused on survival. As we all know, cell phones and related devices can be incredibly distracting. Survival is as much about mindset as it is about circumstances. In a real scenario, law enforcement will retrieve you from your hiding places to let you know it is safe.
8. **What else can be done?**  Members of the ERT have met with smaller departments/offices to go over how to react to these scenarios in more detail.  We have a helpful DVD and discussion that follows, and would be happy to do this for anyone.
9. **What about students being traumatized by this type of message and drill?**  Myself and the rest of the ERT will be working closely with the Wellness Center on how to craft the messages to students, as well as being able to respond the day of to assisting students who may be challenged with this.  It is nearly impossible to do this type of drill without it being unsettling, and we will work with all campus partners on offering the best support and resources to all students affected.