

# News and Views from Facilities



## July 2017

With the summer season upon us, it is a good opportunity to remind everyone that Western Washington University is not an air-conditioned campus, and that condition is not likely to change in the near future. Even though on a given day or week there may be high temperatures, the actual average temperatures we experience do not warrant a multi-million dollar investment in central air conditioning. EHS, Facilities Management, Space Management and Human Resources have developed an informal response to complaints about locally hot spaces, but solutions do not include purchase of personal, portable, or window unit air-conditioners. See more in the FAQ section.

In other news, we are in the throes of our summer project work. Trades and mechanics can be found everywhere on campus working on issues, ranging from correcting individual repair issues in each residence hall, to steam and hot water line repairs, to storm water detention area maintenance. And we also have that little job called Carver Renovation. The contractor work is drawing to a close, but the work to make the building fully operational is occupying a huge amount of time for Facilities Management this summer.

All this work makes it difficult, but not impossible to add new items that have to be completed before the Fall academic quarter. I urge you to contact us immediately if you have any of that type of work – we can't promise to complete it, but can promise to try!

As always, if you are interested in receiving these notes personally rather than through Western Today, please email me ([john.furman@wwu.edu](mailto:john.furman@wwu.edu)) and I will place you on the distribution list.

*John Furman, Director of Facilities Management*

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## Rekeying

As I write these notes, we are putting the finishing touches on the latest phase of our campus rekeying project. This phase addresses nearly all of our restricted service areas: mechanical & electrical rooms, roof & tunnel access, custodial closets, etc.). Not unexpectedly, we are hearing from people around campus that they can no longer gain entry into some of these rooms. While sympathetic to those complaints, those spaces are restricted for reasons of safety and security, and access will nearly always be limited to service and trades personnel who have a need to use the space for work.



We will work with Space Management to find an appropriate space solution, but continued access to restricted spaces will not be on the solutions menu.

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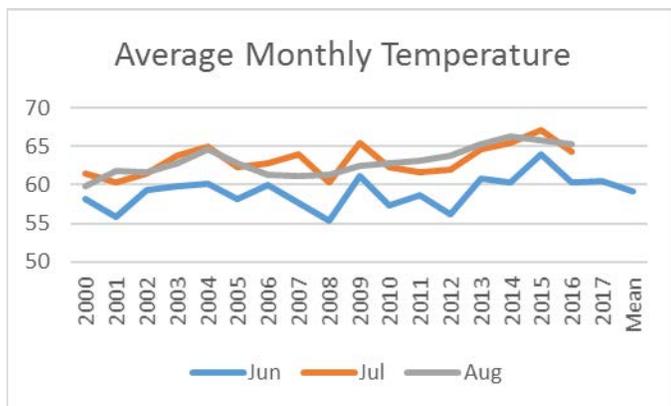
### Summer Temperatures FAQs

#### Why aren't our buildings air conditioned?

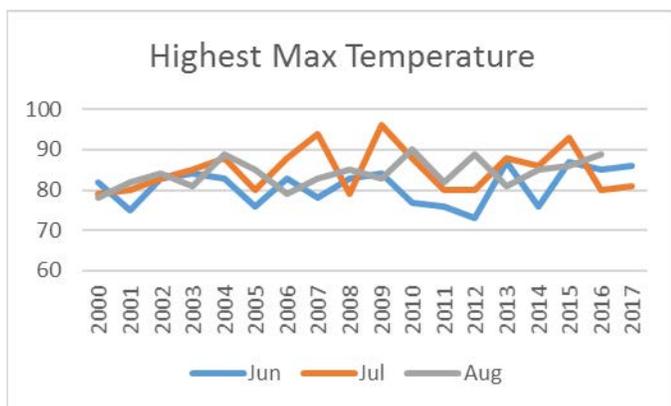
Many of WWU's buildings were constructed in an era when internal environmental space conditioning was limited to heating and ventilation systems. Even with today's central air conditioning technology, the average temperatures in our moderate pacific northwest climate mean that we don't have a need for central air conditioning.

#### But what about climate change? We know it's getting warmer!

Looking at temperature trends since 2000, July and August are unquestionably our hottest months, and there is a slight increasing trend in average monthly temperature and highest maximum temperature over those 17 years.



It is getting warmer, but those increases do not trigger any fundamental design changes to our building profile, and won't result in central air as a standard building characteristic.



#### Why don't we allow room air conditioners or personal air conditioners?

Unfortunately, important factors such as energy use/efficiency, our commitment to carbon footprint reduction, maintenance costs, and aesthetics immediately conflict with the desire to have a personal A/C unit.

- A typical A/C unit for a 150 SF office will cost about \$19/month and generate an additional .3 tons of eCO2 over the three summer months. Extrapolate those impacts over several dozen people, and we will see some serious budgetary and environmental impacts. Compare that to a desk fan which costs less than a \$0.50 a month!
- Western strives to protect our campus appearance and architectural features. Window A/C units detract from building appeal, and often create unintended maintenance problems for the building.

#### My office is uncomfortably hot! What is Western going to do about it?

Heat affects different people differently, and when the summer temperatures reach into the 80's (and occasionally the 90s), many people who are so used to more mild temperatures may feel they are baking in the sun, or even indoors. If you are uncomfortable in your space and a desk fan along with cooler summer clothing isn't effective enough, give the customer service desk a call.

- EHS will evaluate space temperature and humidity conditions, providing fans if necessary or available. If there is a health concern, refer the person(s) to HR.
- FM will evaluate temperature trends and determine what additional methods we can employ in our building controls systems to improve the situation.
- Space Management may identify alternative air conditioned work spaces to accommodate special conditions or needs.
- Ultimately, HR is available to provide supervisors guidance regarding tools at their disposal to respond to employees with heat concerns when all other options have been exhausted.

**News and Views from Facilities**

**Facilities Management – Faces you should know**

Sometimes it's easier to call someone when you can put a face to the name. Here is our Customer Service Team:



Jamie Granger



Elizabeth Goplerund



Sandy Train



Jody Lee

Chris Vallejo

When you see something that needs fixing, text what you found to [fixit@wwu.edu](mailto:fixit@wwu.edu). Pictures are welcome too!

If there are particular items or topics you are interested in learning about, please give us a call!

