



## Campus Recreation & Wellness

Hello to our Preston Center membership family, I hope you all are doing well and are enjoying your summer!

I wanted to send a quick note to you about our pool situation. For all our swimmers, I know that it has been a challenge we have been battling with the heat and humidity on the pool deck. Kate, Candice, and our aquatics team have done their best to mitigate the issues we've had on their end, but unfortunately the HVAC system for the pool is at the end of its life cycle. Despite the best efforts of our facilities management staff to repair, it is getting harder and harder to find parts to fix the issues with this system. Sadly, it's taking longer and longer to get what is needed due to the system's age, so it's taking longer to fix. The reason the pool deck had gotten so bad, which subsequently has affected the water temperature & humidity levels, was because the entire system was offline for about a month as maintenance was waiting for the parts to come in. Thankfully, those parts finally came in and have fixed the issue, more or less. Sadly though, another unit went down as they were fixing the others, so right now the HVAC system is only operating on 3 of the 4 units it has to operate. Things are better, but not to its full capacity. We are now in a waiting game again for this last unit to be fixed.

Although the HVAC system is operating again, albeit not to full capacity, it has reached a point that facilities management calls "breakdown maintenance". Basically, this means it has reached the end of its life cycle and needs to be replaced. Towards the end of the fall semester, CRW reached out to WKU Planning, Design, and Construction to see what the next steps are to replace this system. It took a little bit, but a study was done by an engineering firm to suggest next steps. Currently, PDC is looking at that to determine what can/will be done. At this point, this is the information we know. Facilities Management is doing the best they can with a failing system, our aquatics staff is doing their best to help, and PDC is looking into what replacing the system looks like.

Right now, I don't have a timeline for the replacement of the system. Our plan is to open the pool back up on **Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**, with normal operating hours through Friday of this week. Unfortunately, this may be a week-to-week situation, or maybe even a day-to-day situation, on whether we will be able to provide pool hours due to the heat and humidity levels on the pool deck. If things are operating properly, then there won't be any issues, however if the system goes down (which is out of our control) we may have to close due to the safety issues the heat/humidity levels cause for our lifeguards and swimmers. We will do our best to keep things open, because believe me we want the pool to be open just like you do, but the safety of our LG's and swimmers comes first.

Please be patient with us, as this situation will be ongoing until the system is replaced. We will do our best to communicate what we know when we know it, but if you suddenly see a sign or get an email from us saying the pool is closed indefinitely, what I've talked about above is the reason why. If that happens, we will try to be as forthcoming as possible, but sometimes a timeline may not be able to be given immediately. I promise you this is just as frustrating to us as it is to you, however it is with the system itself. Our Facilities Management staff is working their tails off when we let them know a problem arises, so it is not on them. They feel just as bad as we do about this.

Again, I know this is not the best situation, no one ever wants to be in a situation where we must close, but due to the age of the HVAC system, this is out of our control. However, we will do our best to keep things open with minimal disruption.

Thank you for your time. I value your membership to our beloved Preston Center, and I appreciate your understanding and patience with us. If you have any questions, please direct them to me and I will do my best to answer. You can email me at [justin.cato@wku.edu](mailto:justin.cato@wku.edu), or give me a call: 270-745-6800.

Sincerely,

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