

ELMIRA COLLEGE

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

September 1, 2022

Good afternoon,

This is to let you know that the equipment that provides air conditioning to the Gannett-Tripp Library has to be shut down, removed and replaced. The reason for shutting down the chiller equipment relates to its age, condition, and environmental sustainability. The current chiller was installed in 1967, with a refrigerant gas that began to be phased out of production in 1995, due to the hydro chlorocarbons and fluorocarbons it contains. We can no longer purchase R-11 gas, which has become very scarce and expensive. The chiller is currently so low on gas, it can no longer cool water. Continuing to operate the chiller would not cool the building, but it would consume energy. Therefore, Josh Campbell, Elmira College Director of Facility Operations, and I have agreed that the best course of action is to shut down the chiller.

As much as possible, we will take aggressive steps to provide a comfortable working and studying environment to get us through the last month of warmer weather. We have done, or will do, the following:

- We have already installed dehumidifiers to help with condensation issues.
- We will take advantage of what is referred to as "free cooling." This is what we did at this time last year in the Campus Center after we lost that chiller, and which proved effective.
- We will also set up our return air to circulate more from the lower level to the 1st and 2nd floor and exhaust the air from those floors.

We are pursuing the installation of a new energy efficient, code-compliant, heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system. This system will be composed of various units and will be the most energy efficient and sustainable that is within our reach. This new system is already in the design stage and will most likely be placed into operation in late Spring 2023, before the major cooling season begins.

In the meantime, there may be days when it is necessary for library staff to work remotely. If this occurs, we may need to change some of the library hours. This will be communicated to the campus community via email as well as being posted to the "Announcements" section on the [MyEC homepage](#).

We apologize for the inconvenience and we appreciate your patience as we work our way through this disruption.

Thank you,
Kathy and Josh

Kathy McDermott
Vice President, Finance and Administration

Josh Campbell
Director of Facility Operations