

WFS 3/9/15

TO: Mary A.Y. Okada, Ed.D.
President

VIA: R. Ray Somera, Ph.D.
Vice President, Academic Affairs

VIA: Michael L. Chan, Ed.D.
Acting Dean, School of Technology & Student Services

FROM: Bobbie Leon Guerrero
Program Specialist, Center for Student Involvement

RE: "Meet Your GCC President" meetings
(February 24 & 25, 2015)

DATE: March 9, 2015

Hafa Adai President Okada!

Attached, please find a summary of the "Meet Your GCC President" meetings held on February 24 & 25, 2015. This semester, over the two day period, 286 students, staff, administrators and faculty signed in and attended your meetings!

Should you need additional information, please contact me at 735-5519.

cc: Elmarie Anderson, Student Member, Board of Trustees
Marlena Montague, Assistant Director, AIER
Rosanna Martinez, President, COPSA

“Meet Your GCC President” Meetings

February 24 & 25, 2015

Prior to President Okada’s introduction, a COPSA officer (Council On Postsecondary Student Affairs, GCC’s student government), started the session by promoting upcoming student events for the spring semester.

The college’s Board of Trustees Student Member, Administrators, COPSA Officers and others present were introduced.

President Okada was then introduced and proceeded to inform the students and faculty of the GCC activities and projects at the college, and then answered questions from the audience. She advised students that this is their time to voice their concerns, issues and any suggestions. She told students to seek assistance from the great set of faculty and administrators that are here to help them get through any challenges so they can complete what they started and graduate.

1. Enrollment – at 2,502 for spring 2015. GCC will continue to increase enrollment as we provide the courses that you need, for the programs that you want, and at the time of the day that you would like to have them offered.
2. Financial Aid – free money available for you to pursue your education. Apply for financial aid and scholarships. This semester, our GCC students received \$42,500 in scholarships from just one grant and the main aspect to qualify was that you had to be Asian American or Pacific Islander. Many times, scholarships are not given because no one applied, so please apply. Visit the Financial Aid Office or the GCC website regularly to check the scholarships that are available. The GCC Foundation also gives over \$10,000 in scholarships to students.
Scholarships that are available right now:
 - a. American Association of University Women (AAUW) - \$500, due Feb. 27th
 - b. Guam Women’s Chamber of Commerce - \$1,000, due March 20th
3. Registration for summer and fall – March 23rd registration starts. Over 60% of our students now register on-line so don’t wait in line. You can even pay for your courses on-line.
4. New Program developments
 - a. Associate of Science in Human Services program starts this fall – currently working with the University of Guam to have it articulate to their Bachelor of Science in Social Work degree. This will allow you to avail of paraprofessional positions in human services that assist in allied health or social worker positions. This program was launched because of the request from students and the community.
 - b. Certificate program in substance abuse counseling and prevention – to be established soon.
 - c. Paralegal program – being developed at the request of the legal community.
5. PDN text alerts – please sign up to get current announcements about GCC should there be a storm or any other emergency situation where the campus has to be closed.
6. Social Media – GCC has a Facebook, Twitter and Instagram account so please sign up for them to keep current on what’s happening on campus.
7. Construction and Expansion
 - a. Building 200 now called Building E – completed, opened in December 2014.
 - b. Building 100 – waiting on USDA’s final approval before it goes out to bid this year. In the meantime, the building is almost 100% vacated. We have to move Cosmetology somewhere so we’re doing renovations elsewhere on campus.
 - c. Crime Lab to be expanded with an adjacent building – this new area will have a GCC classroom and lab to support the Criminal Justice program.
 - d. Annex building proposal for Electronics and expanded Automotive lab – a private company owns property next to GCC behind the automotive building where we hope to expand. The concept will be presented to us by the end of the month. Once approved with our specifications, the plans will be given to a developer to build for us and we will lease it from them. This will allow for upgrades and our programs to work with hybrid and electric vehicles, computer networking, and a whole photovoltaic lab.

- e. Wellness Center – it's under design now and will have a full court gym. Once the design is completed, I can begin looking for the funding. The Maintenance Department will be located on the first floor with the gym on the second floor.
 - f. Building 300 and 400 – to be renovated. In order to start building 300, we have to move out the Maintenance Department into the completed Wellness Center. In order to renovate building 400, we have to build another multipurpose auditorium first. I need to get designs approved so I can get funding to build.
 - g. Overall campus expansion – there are a lot of buildings in the pipeline but it takes funding and years to complete them. If anyone knows of someone with money, let me know and I'll talk to them about funding our projects as they may need the tax breaks. It could just be someone who's interested in higher education, college or career and technical education and many other colleges and universities take advantage of those funding opportunities.
8. Technology upgrades
 - a. Upgraded bandwidth that provides internet connectivity for both wired and wireless access
 - b. Foundation ESL Lab, Room 6219 and C-25 have all been upgraded with new computers
 - c. Upgraded systems are in place for the AutoCad Lab in Building E and includes AutoCad 2015
 - d. College Technology Committee (CTC) has upgraded the specification standards for all PCs on campus
 9. Sustainability
 - a. Water filling stations – currently obtaining quotes to get these stations and set them up near the water fountains so you can refill your water bottles.
 - b. Recycling – more recycling atolls placed around the campus and we've seen an increase in the recycling of plastic, aluminum and paper.
 - c. Sustainability Coordinator – the college now has someone to monitor these atolls and leading the efforts for recycling.
 - d. GPA sustainability project – has yet to be awarded but vendor can choose between placing PV panels on buildings, covered walkways or covered parking. Once the bid is awarded, we will identify what we will do on campus.
 10. Wellness on campus
 - a. Workout room in Building E – schedule of events is on-line on the MyGCC website
 - b. Student organization SPARC (Sports and Recreation Club) is also leading a number of activities such as Zumba, fitness circuits, and walk/runs.
 11. Accommodative Services and ADA requirements
 - a. Ramps – aware that some ramps are too steep. 2015 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) are already ongoing for some projects.
 - i. Adding a ramp similar to one outside MPA between Building 500 (Automotive) and 1000 (Tech Center).
 - ii. Reviewing a more efficient and effective path to get from Building E to the BCS Café .
 - b. Parking – reviewing the ADA parking closer to Building E
 - c. Accommodative services does not mean covered walkways, it means accessible walkways: getting from one building to another – this is in the Facility Master Plan but the greater need is to expand facilities for classrooms.
 - d. Covered parking – no requirement for us to do this.
 12. Congressional Internship – if you're interested in the political science field, you'll have a chance to work in Washington D.C. for two weeks and Guam for two weeks in the Congressional office. Please let us know so we can forward the information to you.
 13. No smoking policy – please remember that there is a public law that prohibits smoking on government property. If you need to smoke, please go outside the gate and be courteous to other students and employees.
 14. Upgrading fire alarm system – contract has been awarded to also include a mass notification system for emergency purposes.
 15. COPSA – you can always send your questions and concerns through COPSA, your student government.

Questions asked February 24 & 25, 2015

1. **Can the college incorporate more on-line courses?** MO: After our last accreditation visit, distance education was one area that we needed to improve. We will be piloting 3 classes next semester to test our IT infrastructure system. Once that pilot is done, we will assess and determine if GCC can offer distance ed courses on-line and not compromise our IT infrastructure. MICHAEL CHAN: Classes offered will be EN110, MA110, OA101 (2 sections).
2. **I wanted to register for another class while taking the pre-requisite course, but I'm locked out. Can you look into this?** MIKE SETZER: The system won't let you take a class until you complete the pre-requisite and get a passing grade. MO: I will look into this and have a discussion with the Registrar as we have to determine how to monitor that you actually passed the prerequisite course.
3. **Why can't a student walk in the graduation ceremony if they only have one class left to complete? It was done in the past.** MO: This new ruling was put into place because students would walk at the graduation ceremony and never come back to complete their missing courses. Walking in the graduation ceremony means that you completed all your requirements to get your degree or certificate. This diploma or degree is what's going to get you your job. If you're short one class and it's not being offered, let us know that this is your issue. There is a mechanism that we're working on to identify students that are very close to completing yet they don't know. The Registrar will soon be able to run this report to identify these students so we're expecting our graduation numbers to increase.
4. **Will you ever have courses in dentistry?** MO: We are working with people to see if we can consider this. There is an organization that is going to set up a dentistry business on Guam and we are working with them to see if we can use their lab. We will not put a lab on campus as it's too expensive and we don't have the space. The dentistry program is being considered but there is nothing formal or finalized yet as we're still working on a partnership with them.
5. **Students register on-line so the class is full, but then they don't show up.** MO: If a student pays for their course, then they have filled a seat. If there are courses that you need, let the Department Chair know, talk to the faculty, talk to the counselors. If there are enough students interested, we might be able to add another section as long as we have the instructor to teach the course. Sometimes we can't open another section if we don't have an instructor to teach it. PETER ROBERTO: We need to know if we are going to add classes in advance as we need to order more books, get the classrooms, secure the instructor, etc.
6. **For the GCC logo contest, what are the specs?** JAYNE FLORES: All the information is on the GCC portal. There is a pdf that states all the requirements. MO: In 2017, GCC will be celebrating 40 years so we are creating a new logo to go with all the other festivities to celebrate this big anniversary. There are cash prizes for the competition.
7. **Since I've been a student here, there's been a lot of expansion so far. Will there be a music program in the future?** MO: If you can find someone to write the program and get the students, it's possible. There has to be enough interest in order to do this. LISA BAZA-CRUZ: We are looking at expanding the humanities area of the Liberal Arts program so we may add a music course but not a whole degree program. MO: Music has never been brought up before. It's a start if we get the music course going. We offer a drama class, because it's necessary for our degree program to articulate to UOG. If you want to participate in music and dancing there is a student organization called the Talent Club that has been pretty active.
8. **The waitlist aspect on MyGCC is still not working?** MO: Are you referring to the class being capped at 30, you putting your name on the waitlist and if someone drops the class, you move up the list? Yes. MO: I know that we're currently exploring this as it's a feature that is available on Banner already. I will take note of this.
9. **Can you look into extending the computer lab hours on weekends?** MO: I can look into this.
10. **Regarding articulation agreements, what colleges are you looking at?** MO: If you go on the GCC website and look up the catalog, the back of our catalog lists all the articulation agreements that we currently have with many places such as UOG, Chaminade University, University of Alaska, and others. We have articulation agreements with member institutions of the Pacific Postsecondary Education Council and it's a matrix so if you take a course at the Palau Community College, it's equal to a course here at GCC. We are working on articulation agreements with more institutions in the Philippines, Hawaii and elsewhere. Remember that the articulation agreement is always contingent upon the receiving entity saying that GCC's programs align with their programs. Sometimes it's course to course or program to program but we are always looking to expand our articulation agreements.

11. **When do you expect the Obama bill to take effect?** MO: Obama proposed offering free tuition for community colleges during his State of the Union address. Congress has not acted on it yet as they are still trying to determine how to fund it. This is all about free tuition and each state and territory is different because they are funded differently. For example, a college in California may offer cheaper credit hour tuition because their property taxes go to their state district. They don't have to lobby for money like we do. 1. They're still trying to see if it's going to be completely free or a reduced rate. 2. It is not mandatory for states to participate because there is a matching requirement. So if the federal government puts up 75%, we would have to put up 25%. It's still in discussion and they're looking at tax reform perhaps to fund it. Ask your friends and relatives in the states who have voting members of congress, to lobby to approve this.
12. **Regarding the interpreting program, will they have more classes offered, like ASL4? I am taking ASL3 right now and would love to get my interpreting certificate.** MO: Department Chair Sarah Leon Guerrero, do you know if ASL4 is on the list to be added next semester? SARAH LEON GUERRERO: the course is currently going through the curriculum approval process and could be available in the fall if it gets approved.
13. **When I logged into the internet, after only 20 minutes, I get timed out. Can we extend the time?** MO: That has already been extended to three hours. CARMEN SANTOS: If you log onto MyGCC, it will log you out if there is no activity, but the internet will still be active for three hours.
14. **Are there plans for more apprenticeship programs in the near future?** MO: Apprenticeship programs are dependent upon an employer requesting for and hiring apprentices. Through the apprenticeship development programs, right now we have over 100 employers who are participating. If you are hired by private industry and they want to set up an apprenticeship program that we currently don't have, your employer is welcome to do that. If you are an apprentice in an apprenticeship sponsored program, your courses are paid for from a separate fund. So yes, we can continue to expand the apprenticeship courses based on employer requests and partnerships. You can't be an apprentice unless you're employed, that's a requirement and the employer has to sponsor you. We used to only have 45 employers and now we have over 100 employers with some having over 50 employees as students.
15. **Has the college considered making an app for students to check our emails, courses, etc. on our mobile phones?** MO: Yes. I'm already asking the College Technology Committee (CTC) to research the possibility for GCC to have a mobile app. We need to make sure that it's feasible to do it and be aware of the impact it will have on our system.
16. **I know that many GCC students are mothers and fathers and it's very difficult for us to find baby sitters or receive the block grant to assist us with paying for day care. Have you ever considered opening a part-time day care center on campus?** MO: This issue comes up every year but there is not enough interest in it. I know that there is someone planning to open another day care center in this area but I don't know when that will happen. **Would they be willing to go half price or give a reduced rate for students?** MO: We would have to see what they would offer. We used to run a day care and it was a lab for our students but it wasn't cost effective for us to continue doing it.
17. **Is there an agricultural certificate program offered here at GCC?** MO: No. **I know that 90% of our produce is brought into Guam and UOG has this program, why can't we start one here with a certificate or associate program?** MO: I do know that our Sustainability Coordinator is working with some of the science faculty and students to create a raised garden, but it's not a program we're offering. UOG offers it because it's a requirement for their land grant status and we are not a land grant institution. There might be an opportunity for the science faculty to add an agricultural class here, but not a whole program. Part of the reason is that we no longer have additional property to expand as it was taken away and given to the original land owners.
18. **Why are college courses in English here not being taught in the high schools?** MO: Our GCC placement test results for students from all the high schools show that there is a large percentage of students that need to take developmental Math and English. Because of this, there are several programs here on campus that offer tutoring for Math and English. If you need help, ask. The Guam Department of Education knows they have a problem and need to provide other services to get their students college ready. We also have the College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP) that is starting tutoring with the middle and high school students. If you need help, ask, let us know. We are here to help you and make sure you graduate with the skills that are necessary so you can find employment.

19. **In order to get into the UOG School of Education, students must have an on-line portfolio? Is there any way GCC can provide a course or workshop to assist students with creating this on-line portfolio?**
 SARAH LEON GUERRERO: We used to have a program here in the past which is also what they use over at UOG, so if there is enough interest we can do this once again. UOG also requires PRAXIS and we offer PRAXIS workshops for our students.
20. **I heard there will be an Education program for a Bachelor's degree soon. Do you have any update on this? Also, I'm an Education major here and want to get my Associate first from GCC but the science courses I'm taking here won't transfer to UOG if you're going to be a science teacher, why is that?**
 MO: Let us know what those science classes are so we can take a look at the articulation agreement with UOG. The back of our catalog shows all the courses that articulate over to UOG. If there's something we don't have yet, we may just have to work with UOG on this to get it articulated. In terms of the 4 year program, GCC has not decided what program we will offer and we are only allowed to offer one degree. At the earliest, it will be 2017. We are currently going through a review process and our 4 year degree program cannot be a degree that is already being offered at UOG.
21. **I'm currently getting tuition assistance, but I can't afford additional courses because of the cost of the books? Can anything be done to provide me with assistance to purchase the books?** MO: Come see me after this.
22. **Is the college going to be offering certification courses for ASL students who want to be interpreters? What type of appreciation do the ASL interpreters receive besides just the compensation?** MO: We do hire interpreters for our graduation and they do get a stipend. For our graduation, we will make sure you get mentioned in the script and you get recognized as an interpreter. Department Chair Sarah Leon Guerrero has been working on this as there is a need for interpreters on many different levels: education, courts, hospital, Guam Police Department, and Department of Youth Affairs, just to name a few. There are a lot of requests for interpreting services and it's a matter of us identifying how that program is going to be set up, how it will be funded, and then get the faculty members to teach the courses. Whenever we put a full program together, it has to go through the accreditors for a review and approval before we can offer it.
23. **Are you planning to renovate Buildings 300 & 400?** MO: Yes, we are planning to renovate these buildings and the request for the funding for the design work will be presented to the Board of Trustees at their next meeting. I already have the costs for the architectural and engineering plans and we have a federal grant opportunity for us to pay for these plans.
24. **I'm a degree seeking student from the automotive tech department. You spoke earlier about the extension and a new automotive building, but will that plan also include some visitors from off-island like professional engineers maybe from NASCAR, some UTI instructors or others to do some seminars here on Guam for the students?** MO: It's a possibility. What is being requested for that facility is being developed by the department. They've asked us to include hybrid vehicles and electric vehicles and if there's other things that students want, let your instructors know so we can include that. **Will that new building allow alumni to come back to the college to work on their personal vehicles?** MO: If you're an alumni and register to take a class, you may be able to work on your car, but we always have to take a look at the liability issues and if we have the space to accommodate this.
25. **The federal government encourages vendors to assist with partner discounts, can GCC look into this? Maybe this will allow us to purchase tools and equipment at wholesale or close to wholesale prices.**
 MO: I know that when the college buys computers in large bulk, there are sometimes opportunities for students to also buy at the educational rate. I'm not sure if this information is made available as much as we should, but we'll start to identify those and maybe put it on the portal or on the website so you can see where additional discounts may be given. I know that many organizations give discounts just by using your GCC ID card, but let me see if I can work with the Development and Alumni office. They're the ones that have done several of those. **FRANK CAMACHO:** When GCC goes out to bid for computers, our specs are higher than the normal computers you can buy commercially. Our computers may seem more expensive, but they also have higher specifications. You can go to the GCC website under About GCC, look for the Management Information Systems link and look at the specs, prices and vendors selling the computers. These vendors know that if you walk in with a valid GCC student I.D., they must sell you the computer at this price.

26. **For the VisCom production studio at the Tech Building, are there any plans to develop the studio and incorporate sound, better lighting, and more multi-media?** MO: Many of the new programs, new courses are based on student interest. If there's a void or something that we need to do to support the community, and the department wants to increase or modify things, then we need to know that there's enough interest. We may not offer it every semester, and we may only offer it on a short term basis through Continuing Education. Let your instructors know.
27. **Do you plan on expanding the parking lot anytime soon? During the afternoon and night classes, it's hard to find parking so we end up parking in the no parking zones.** MO: There is a parking garage and parking structures in the Physical Master Plan but I don't have the funds to build them right now. We need more classroom space now so I need to do the upgrades and the new buildings first.
28. **In regards to parking, all my classes are at night, can you put up more lights because it gets really dark and I don't feel safe?** MO: I will check to see if more lights can be put up. **How about video cameras?** MO: There are video cameras, you just don't know where they are. So when you least expect it, you may be videoed. If there's a need to put more, we may put more. **Can you put more of them up at the automotive area as there has been some vandalism?** MO: Yes, we are aware of that.
29. **Regarding the parking problem, you may want to consider setting up car pool programs. They have a strong program in Washington and if there are more than 3 or so people participating, they get a special sticker and they can park in special car pool designated parking.** MO: Can you drop off this information so we can look into this?
30. **Can you take a look at putting more parking stalls next to the automotive section?** MO: We have to build the ADA ramp first connecting Buildings 500 & 1000, and then we'll see what we can do if space allows.
31. **Where would we find money to cover for interpreters in the ASL 3 & 4 courses as financial aid does not cover it?** MO: Our GCC Foundation provides scholarships and they award at least \$10,000 a year. When other scholarship opportunities come up, please apply. ESTHER RIOS: ASL 1 & 2 are required, but ASL 3 & 4 are considered electives. Please check for other scholarships and Project AIM.