

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

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

VIA: Virginia Tudela, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Technology & Student Services

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

RE: "Meet Your GCC President" meetings
(September 24 & 25, 2014)

DATE: October 2, 2014

Hafa Adai President Okadal

Attached, please find a summary of the "Meet Your GCC President" meetings held on September 24 & 25, 2014. This semester, over the two day period, 389 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

September 24 & 25, 2014

Prior to President Okada’s introduction, the Center for Student Involvement started the session by promoting upcoming student events for the fall semester.

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

President Okada was then introduced, informed the students and faculty of some 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. She encouraged the students to tell family, friends and relatives to come to GCC and take advantage of our services so they can be well prepared for all the job opportunities coming up.

1. Scholarship opportunities – lots of FREE money available in scholarships and students need to apply. Not all scholarships are income based and there are some scholarships that are only open to Asian American or Pacific islanders. The President named numerous scholarships that are available to students here at GCC and greatly encouraged everyone to please submit their applications and take advantage of these opportunities.
2. Spring 2015 semester – don’t wait, register early so you don’t have to stand in any long lines. On-line registration for spring will start on October 20th.
3. PDN text alerts – sign up and receive information on campus developments such as no classes due to pending storm, etc.
4. Buildings and Construction
 - a. Bldg. 200 – almost completed and should be open by December. Oct. 4th & 11th – power to be shut off at the entire campus to move the transformer located in front of this building. The Education Department will be on the 1st floor, English and Auto Cad classes will be held on the 2nd floor along with a workout room to do things like Zumba, yoga and other exercises.
 - b. Bldg. 100 – this building will be coming down next semester to prepare for construction.
 - c. Forensic Lab – will be expanding and classrooms and labs will be added.
 - d. Wellness Facility – currently at 30% design completion. This two-story building will be located back by the firing range and will house the Maintenance Department on the first floor and a full basketball court layout with separate workout rooms on the second floor.
 - e. Building B – to be renovated and made into a two-story building with a study hall or student success room on the 2nd floor.
 - f. Master Plan – starting this semester, with Board of Trustees authorization, the college will be going through an update of the GCC Facility Master Plan.
5. Robotics to start as a pilot program for our secondary students as part of STEM.

Questions asked September 24 & 25, 2014

1. **Can the speed bumps that have been installed go completely across the road? I was almost hit the other day because another car was trying to go around the speed bump.** MO: The speed bumps were installed to deter people from speeding through the campus. We can cover both sides. I can have your BOT Student Member Elmarie Anderson or COPSA find out if you want the bumps to cover the entire road or just half the road, but they will stay. Signage will be put up soon.
2. **Can it say Wellness Center in Chamorro?** MO: Yes. **Will there be opportunities for jobs once the Wellness Center is open?** MO: Yes, there may be some opportunities.
3. **Can the college bush cut the areas outside the gate for more parking?** MO: I will let the Mayor of Mangilao know as that is not our property.

4. **Will the college be providing additional parking?** MO: There is a parking garage in the GCC Facility Master Plan but I do not have any funding for that at this time. I think it is more important to upgrade the facilities first and focus on the buildings that are used for instructional purposes.
5. **What can be done about vehicles parking in the marked motorcycle stalls?** MO: If you are on the GCC campus and are erroneously parked in a disabled parking stall or in an area that you should not be parking in, you can be towed at your expense. I will have someone check on the signage that is currently posted and update if needed.
6. **Is there a way for faculty and students to have a designated smoking area?** MO: No, it's a public law that you have to be so many feet away from an educational institution or government building. **I know but people are smoking right outside the fence and that's still part of the GCC campus.** MO: Yes, I will take a look and have signage to designate and redefine the entryways near the gates and the smoking areas.
7. **Can you let us know what is going on with the automotive building?** MO: I am currently working on expanding the automotive section both on-campus and off-campus and will have more details next semester. I'm always looking at all the opportunities to see how we can expand both on-campus and off-campus for our occupational areas here at GCC.
8. **UOG is stopping their associate's degree in nursing, can GCC do it?** MO: This is the only associate's degree program that they have and they did that because GCC's program was not ready. We are aware of this, and we are working on it because we'll also have to go through program modification and the Accrediting Commission.
9. **You encourage students to register on-line and early. In the past, we could register on-line for a class that we were repeating but now we cannot do it. Can this be put back on?** MO: I will look into that.
10. **This semester, I registered early, but then I couldn't get my ID or books early. Is there a reason for that?** MO: It could be because the books were not here and we temporarily ran out of ID card supplies. We will be upgrading the ID card system soon.
11. **What are plans for the MPA?** MO: The plan is to turn this whole building into a complete culinary kitchen but I have to build another room of this type first.
12. **Why did the Student Support Services office stop issuing parking decals?** MO: At this time, it's because there's limited parking available. Until we complete the parking garage and get more parking, then we'll start charging for parking again.
13. **How can we help you with your plans?** MO: By continuing to go to school here and finishing your degree. By encouraging your family and friends that want to take advantage of workforce opportunities available on Guam to continue to support GCC. By recycling – putting the plastics in the plastic containers, putting the cans in the aluminum cans container and keeping our campus clean. We have hired a Sustainability and Project Coordinator so there will be more sustainability projects on campus in regards to sorting the trash and compacting the trash. Do your part and help keep our campus clean.
14. **Can you please explain why we took away the option to drop a class?** MO: The discussion on late registration and add/drop centered around missing class for two weeks which was quite a bit to miss. We are reconsidering the first day of class for the spring semester and the discussion to allow students to attend the first day of class and then drop it. However, there still will not be any late registration.
15. **I need an interpreter service. Is there any possible way that we will have a program here at GCC, an ASL program, maybe a 2 or 4 year certification program? I'm deaf and as a student, I always need interpreters.** MO: We do know that there are interpreting services required not just by GCC but for education, for the court system, for the hospital, and for a lot of other needs. The interpreter program is currently being worked on by the Education department. Whether it will be an actual two-year program is really dependent on the need to support that program. We do offer interpreter classes and there is some discussion to expand that.
16. **Can the vendors test the soda machine more often as it takes our money?** MO: If the machine takes your money, please report it to the Student Support Services office and they will report it to the vendor. J.IGE: It actually takes 2-3 months to get the money back to those who reported it. MO: We will take a look at that and see if we can get that time cut down. As an option, we are looking into water refilling stations so you can refill your bottle with filtered water.
17. **When the gym opens, is it for people who work here or everyone?** MO: The gym will be for the GCC employees and students. **Will it be free?** MO: Yes, it will be part of the GCC activities. Also, we do have a student organization named SPARC that does recreational activities.

18. **Cultural influences, can we give our buildings cultural names to bring our culture back to our school?** MO: Yes, we can look into this.
19. **Will there be an opportunity for student organizations to have meeting rooms available to them?** MO: There is the Training Room in the Student Center and there is a conference room in the Center for Student Involvement office. You just have to reserve it through the CSI office.
20. **Are there going to be any other food options besides BCS?** MO: The area where BCS is located will actually be torn down in the future and we'll have to move them somewhere else. However, until a new area is identified, we won't be moving them. When there is additional concession space available, we can identify more options.
21. **Are there going to be more language classes offered like Russian?** MO: We are working on that now.
22. **My instructor stated that he was given the task to put together a program within two years for an associate's degree for a paralegal or legal secretary? Can we speed up that process?** MO: There is an accreditation process that we must follow so that if someone starts it here and wants to finish it at another institution, our programs are synchronized. Also, before we can offer a degree or certificate program, the Accrediting Commission will ask GCC if it is part of our mission, can we support it with faculty, and can we sustain it after we offer it. The legwork has started and there is funding that we can get to support that program.
23. **I'm a graduate of the 12th CJ Academy and I have friends who have graduated from the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th cycles and are still waiting for jobs. We can't get into the system. I invested so much time and effort using the 911 bill and I don't think I'm going to get a job in the next two years. Can GCC help those graduates with certifications get jobs?** MO: I've met with Chief Bordallo and Vice Speaker Cruz and we are working to get priority and/or selective factors for the job openings in the law enforcement area. We're trying to get this process modified to include language that states 'certification and training from GCC as a priority'. If it means we have to get it legislated, then we'll work to help get it legislated. We used to have a Career Placement Office in the past but now because of the federal requirement for us to report job placement, we may have to go back and add that back to our staffing.
24. **I'm deaf and want to know about instruction and interpreter certification, maybe people with disabilities can get a note taker for their classes and maybe closed caption for movies shown at GCC?** MO: The interpreter training program is something that Guam needs in terms of education but also for the Guam Memorial Hospital, Public Health, the court system, so different kinds of interpreting, not just sign language but also speaking different languages. The Education Department is currently working on this with other government departments. In terms of specific services that you might need for note taking, there is a department at GCC called the Accommodative Services Office and they should be able to assist you.
25. **With all the discussion on the medicinal marijuana bill, if that bill passes, will GCC be offering any courses regarding marijuana?** MO: If you're asking if we're going to grow it here, no. If there is information that is needed that could apply to be learned by nurses or if the science department wants to study it, those are things that could be included in the curriculum. The regulations are very restrictive but if the workforce demands that there is a need for people in this field, we can look into adding it.
26. **Is there something that can be done about the wi-fi as it logs you out every 5 minutes, can this change?** MO: The wi-fi used to log you out after 10 minutes, but it has been extended to 3 hours.
27. **In terms of medicine, I saw on the GCC website that I can get a degree in Medical Assisting and a certificate in Practical Nursing. Would it be possible to get a degree in Nursing?** MO: When the Licensed Practical Nursing program was first established, we did not have enough certified faculty to get the approval of the Guam Board of Nursing. Through grant money, we have been able to get a number of our faculty certified and they have received their Masters degrees. Now, the nursing faculty and the department need to facilitate that process and determine if there is a need and if we can sustain the program. The entire process usually takes about two years but this could take a little less.
28. **I'm in the apprenticeship program and was wondering about the lack of materials. I work at JMSI electrical.** MO: There is funding for the apprenticeship program so you need to let your faculty know what you need. Money comes in from the Manpower Development Fund and there is funding there.

29. **There used to be an interpreter training program here but it stopped, why? How can we set it up again as we only have a small pool of interpreters now and the old interpreters are retiring? We need a new generation of interpreters and we have a lot of students that are interested in this occupation and also want to work in early childhood.** MO: That program is already being addressed by the Education Department and they are revisiting the interpreter program and starting to expand on this. There should be more classes made available to the GCC students shortly. **Is there funding for this?** MO: Yes.
30. **Why don't we have a fall commencement ceremony?** MO: We don't have enough students that graduate in the fall semester. **How about using the MPA?** MO: It's too small and we don't have another facility we can use at this time.
31. **Many of the lights in D-Wing are out, and some have been out for over a year. Can they be fixed soon?** MO: We've ordered the photovoltaic lights and batteries but it takes a while to get them. We will also be installing flood lights in some areas. Solar lights have been installed near the Allied Health Building to provide lights for the walkway, please don't sit on them.
32. **Will there be any ATMs installed here?** MO: We had one before and we are asking the financial institutions to see if they can install one inside a building so it can be secured.