

“Meet the President” Meetings

September 27 & 28, 2016

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 fall semester.

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

President Okada was then introduced and proceeded to inform the students and faculty of GCC activities and updates throughout the campus.

1. Fall 2016 Enrollment – stable, a little bit more than last fall. Student numbers usually increase when there aren’t a lot of jobs available but that is not the case right now here on Guam. We’re able to maintain the number of students even though there are more jobs out there today.
2. Spring 2017 – registration begins on Monday, Oct. 24th. Register early to get the classes you need at the times you want and with the faculty you want. If you don’t know how to register on-line, the Admissions Department can assist you. More than 60% of students now register on-line to avoid the lines.
3. Distance Education courses – offered 7 courses this semester in English, Math, Filing Systems and Keyboarding. We are working to offer additional courses through DE based on student requests. Check with your advisor or a counselor if you have any questions as DE course instruction is very different than what you may be used to in the classroom.
4. Programs
 - a. Human Services – Associate of Science Degree in Human Services which we started in 2015. This degree prepares you for the paraprofessional positions in human services that are related to assisting social workers and other allied health professionals. Working with UOG on articulation to their Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work.
 - b. Substance Abuse, Counseling and Prevention – working on Certificate Programs that could be available by next fall or early 2018.
 - c. Paralegal – working on programs in association with the criminal justice programs.
 - d. Environmental Technician – GPA has been doing a lot with solar farms and other sustainability projects. We do have a Certificate of Environmental Technician program already in place to support this industry and what’s happening in our community.
 - e. Hybrid Electric Vehicles – another potential program to support car dealers that have hybrid and electric vehicles.
5. Construction Updates
 - a. Building 100 – to be renovated into a 2-story building and connected to E-building by Dec. 2017. This will be the Criminal Justice and Human Services building.
 - b. Building 300 – design is almost complete and we already have federal funds to fix it.
 - c. GPD Crime Lab, GCC classroom laboratory expansion – to be expanded and will house a lab, faculty offices and classrooms for GCC with the GPD crime lab in the back.
 - d. Wellness Center – designs are complete but need the funds to build it.
6. Transformation Process
100% student-centered success—to ensure that you are successful in whatever your goal is here at GCC. Example: your goal is to finish a 2 year degree in 2 years; the college will make sure they offer the courses you need to complete your degree in 2 years.
7. Year-round registration – Registration 365
 - a. You know what’s offered all year round and can register for the entire year; fall, spring and summer
 - b. Admissions & Registration Department is looking into this
8. GCC 40th year anniversary
 - a. New GCC logo to be unveiled in January 2017
 - b. Website to be redesigned

9. Scholarships – many are available, please apply
10. Workout room in building E – GCC has Zumba classes you can attend
11. Sustainability
 - a. Please use recycling containers and separate aluminum cans, plastic, paper and trash
 - b. Received a \$10,000 grant to support more sustainability projects on campus
 - c. Additional efforts: change out lights to LED, solar walkways, trash compacting
12. Sexual Harassment
 - a. Zero tolerance policy at GCC regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual fraternization among and between students, faculty and other employees and even contractors such as building contractors, custodial contractors, etc.
 - b. Policy approved by the Board of Trustees
 - c. Draft procedures have been posted and we'd like your comments so we can include your feedback in the procedures.
13. Fire alarm system
 - a. Installed new fire alarm panels, strobe lights
 - b. This system can also be used for mass notifications for any other alerts
14. Campus safety
 - a. Bomb threats, earthquakes, fire drills – info provided in MyGCC on procedures in case of emergencies
 - b. Sign up for the PDN text alerts – we used this recently during the load shedding/power situations to advise you regarding cancelled classes
15. Social media – like GCC Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube to stay up to date on GCC events

Questions asked September 27 & 28, 2016

1. **Will the GPD lab be used for students in the CJ program or is it just for GPD?** MO: The facility that we are building near the current facility is part GCC classrooms, faculty offices and labs and partly a GPD DNA lab. The entire building is owned and operated by GCC; GPD will be a tenant to our building.
2. **UOG is going to change their general requirements soon, how will that affect me as a Liberal Studies major?** MO: I think they changed the name, so we changed our name and then they changed their name again. RAY SOMERA: what used to be the program to program articulation agreement with UOG was called the Integrated Arts & Sciences program or IAS. They discontinued this so whatever courses you take under Liberal Studies would be counted as part of the courses that articulate over, mostly in general education. MO: What we used to have is a program that articulated as a program. If UOG discontinues their program, then your classes will articulate over as classes. If you are taking classes now in anticipation that they will articulate over to UOG, make sure you check that you are not taking classes here that do not articulate over. RAY SOMERA: I am currently working on an articulation agreement for Liberal Studies with some of the programs with the University of Hawaii in Manoa. They are currently reviewing our liberal studies program and hopefully it can articulate as an entire program. We meet with them in October and will get an update on their review. MO: Just because UOG may not have a program that you can articulate, it doesn't mean that we can't identify another university that we can articulate to.
3. **I know that Building 100 is currently under construction and the cosmetology department is currently under revamp. When can we look forward to the cosmetology department being open again for courses?** MO: It is anticipated that the cosmetology program update will be complete by May 2017, but the building construction will not be done until Dec. 2017. If we were to start cosmetology in Fall 2017, we would have to secure a location because we have no current facility. Once the program has been updated and we have an adequate number of students to start the program, we would have to identify an off-site location until the campus facilities are ready.

4. **I am a computer science major and I'm not sure if other majors are having the same problem but I'm having problems signing up for classes schedule-wise and some classes are conflicting with other classes. For this upcoming semester, will there be more availability and flexibility for us to register?** MO: Every year, the Department Chairpersons should be surveying their students and tracking their students to see what courses you students want or need so they can offer them and you can continue. If there are a series of courses that you need or expect to take in the next semester, let your faculty know so the information can be captured and factored into the schedule. When the schedule comes out on Oct. 24th and the class you need is not there, don't wait until January when the classes start, let your advisor know ASAP. Feedback from the students for each of the departments is what the Department Chairpersons use to build the schedule.
5. **Most of the computer science classes are at night. One class I can't seem to take is a science class as most of them end at 3:30pm and I get off work at 3:30pm.** MO: Let your Advisors know when the schedule comes out in October. Also, if you go on the GCC website, you can send an email to the science faculty. There's a Department Chair for science that you can email. **This is the second time I've brought this up.** MO: What class do you need? **A science class.** MO: Dean Michael Chan, you heard him. He's saying it again, he said it last time. He needs a science class to be held after 3:30pm during the week, for him and other computer science majors who need a science in order to graduate (TSS Dean Michael Chan pointed out by MO).
6. **For the computers in the Tech Building, I know the software is up to date, but the hardware is very old and lags. Some teachers say some of the computers are seven years old. Will there be an update for the computers in that building any time soon?** MO: Which specific lab are you talking about? **Downstairs, maybe room 1108 and 1222.** MO: What course are you taking that is in the class with the old hardware? **Illustrator or Photoshop classes, VisCom classes in general.** FRANCISCO CAMACHO: That has been identified for an upgrade already and it is scheduled for the next Fiscal year either during the Christmas break or during the summer break. MO: The fiscal year starts in October. Usually, we do upgrades during breaks to avoid classroom disruption.
7. **I heard that GCC has an opportunity to get a four year program. I was wondering if VisCom was applicable for that since UOG doesn't offer my major?** MO: Yes, GCC has an opportunity to offer one 4 year program. Research is already being done but a decision will not be made until after the March 2018 accreditation visit. VisCom is just one of the programs vying for the four year degree. We have to meet all the requirements for a four year program. There are not a lot of four year programs for vocational programs.
8. **Regarding the year round registration, if circumstances change and you can't make the classes, will you still be charged?** MO: The way it is set-up, you will have a certain amount of time to make adjustments. We want you to have the opportunity to plan ahead and create your schedule for a year.
9. **Is it possible to offer fine arts music courses if you can find the instructors?** MO: The classes offered at GCC are college courses and are developed in conjunction with a program or we offer short-term continuing education courses. There hasn't been enough interest for a music course, and we don't have the space right now. As the facilities are upgraded and we get more space and if there is a demand from students, we can look into this. Send in requests to your advisors to let them know that you're interested, they can begin to collect the data, and if there are enough students, they can begin to consider including it as part of the curriculum or offering something here that can potentially transfer to UOG or another college or university.
10. **Wondering about the possibility of storage space and lockers for students and student organizations?** MO: Request is for student organizations to have supply storage and individual student lockers? **Yes.** MO: We don't have any lockers on campus except for the lockers in building E as part of the workout room. However, please do not use these lockers to store paper products. We would have to work with the COPSA officers to determine the reasonable amount of space needed. Because of all the construction upgrades, we are very limited on space and our focus is on classrooms first.
11. **You mentioned a workout room, what kind of equipment is in there?** MO: The workout room is in building E on the 2nd floor and there is a ping pong table. We have plans for a Wellness Center with a full court gym but I don't have the funds to build it right now.

12. **You mentioned about articulation with UOG for Human Services, are there any other programs in the works under articulation? Maybe Hospitality and Tourism?** MO: If you look at the GCC catalog, there are several universities that we articulate to. Culinary students, two years at GCC, one year in the Philippines and you will have a bachelor's degree, it's a 2 + 1 program. We do have other programs we're working on with other universities such as the University of Hawaii at Manoa. UOG has an international tourism program. **Only the Liberal Studies classes can be transferred but not the major classes that we already took unless we do substitutions which have a 50/50 chance of clearing.** MO: It doesn't hurt to ask and you have to try. We can also take a look to see what other tourism courses can articulate.
13. **I have a few friends from UOG that transferred over to GCC because UOG's arts program is more traditional rather than graphic design so you may see a rise in VisCom majors.** MO: We have seen the increase in that program. I have to tell you we're rocking over here. Just knowing that our students are able to come to class and are getting involved in COPSA activities. Our COPSA group and advisors are all over the place. They're really great if you need somebody to speak to about why you're here. These guys have the right attitude about being in college and what it takes to continue here and I think as you start to have these conversations with other students, you'll find that GCC is a great place! Some people may be frustrated because their program doesn't have the latest and greatest, but we're working hard, and we're working fast to put up all the buildings. All the facilities we've built over the years cost more than \$24 million dollars but we only have \$6 million dollars of debt associated with that. We've been hustling, applying for grants, looking for money, getting people to support us here. People believe in us which is why we've been able to move. Our progression here on campus has a lot to do with the community supporting us as we provide the training and services they need for their employees and their companies.