

RECEIVED
DATE: 10/23/13

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
Program Specialist, Center for Student Involvement

RE: "Growth and the Guam Community College with President Mary Okada" meetings
(October 9 & 10, 2013)

DATE: October 23, 2013

Hafa Adai President Okada!

Attached, please find a summary of the "Growth and the Guam Community College with President Mary Okada" meetings held on October 9 & 10, 2013. This semester, over the two day period, 406 students, staff, administrators and faculty signed in and attended your meetings!

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

cc: Steven Alvarez, BOT Student Member
Marlena Montague, Institutional Researcher, AIER
Jennifer Esteves, President, COPSA

“Growth and the Guam Community College with President Mary Okada”

October 9 & 10, 2013

Prior to President Okada’s introduction, a COPSA Officer began the session by promoting upcoming student activities for the fall semester.

The college’s Management Team, Administrators, COPSA Officers and others present were introduced.

President Okada was then introduced, informed the students and faculty of the GCC activities and projects at the college, and then answered questions from the audience. She also advised students that they can email her directly with their questions or concerns at gccpresident@guamcc.edu.

1. Enrollment
Numbers increasing, 2,661 students this semester, 3% more than last year.
2. Team GCC
GCC has a solid team of faculty, staff and administrators that work together to help our students succeed through upgrades and opportunities. The team is coherent and functioning together to move the institution forward. Students are also part of the team as they support other students.
3. Institutional Strategic Master Plan
College plan started in 2009. These long term plans are linked to other plans, linked to funding and linked to programs. GCC will be renewing and updating the plan in the next couple of months with consideration for expanding and upgrading programs and buildings based on needs and industry input.
4. Tracking of GCC graduates
New legislation will require that we track GCC graduates 2 years after they graduate and identify: where they are, what they are doing, are they working in their degree area, and what salary range are they currently earning. From the federal aspect, national surveys are showing that students are graduating with thousands of dollars in debt and now they need to know if their federal student grants like Pell have had an impact on the area of study that the student selected, are they getting the return on their investment. In 2014, we start this tracking requirement so we need to report on where students are in 2016. This information may provide us with additional grant funding opportunities for our students.
5. Registration
60% of students now register on-line. Take advantage of this on-line service, register early and avoid the long lines.
Late registration will be phased out and no longer offered.
6. Construction, Updates and Installations
Building 200 – 2 story complex to include classrooms for Education Department and AutoCad, faculty offices, study area and a wellness room on the 2nd floor. An elevator will be installed that will be utilized for both Bldg.100 & 200. Anticipated completion is September of 2014.
Building 100 – next in line to be renovated and will also be a 2 story building. The plan is to begin construction by the Fall of 2014.
Forensic Lab expansion – will be renovated the same time as Building 100.
Facilities building – plans to move the Maintenance Department at Building 300 to a new building in the area back near the Firing Range with a Wellness Center that includes a full court (basketball & volleyball) on the 2nd floor. Working on the design and funding and we hope to start construction by next academic year.
Parking garage – it’s in the plans but no funding for this yet.
Updating fire alarm system for mass notifications.
Classrooms will be upgraded with multi-media projectors, tables and chairs.
Installing a fence around the firing range and around the ponding basin by Building 900.
Construction will be on-going for several years & we will continue to have issues with parking, facilities and space.

7. Sustainability

GCC working towards having more sustainability features in all new buildings constructed and on campus. Examples include: LRC being a Gold LEED certified building; Foundation Building being a Silver LEED certified building; air cons monitoring temperatures, rain water catchment tanks used for flushing toilets; photovoltaic (PV) panels on roofs to generate energy that is net metered back into the grid, and PV paneled lighting in the parking lots.

GCC offering Renewable Energy courses.

Recycling of aluminum cans and plastic bottles in containers around the campus.

8. Miscellaneous

PDN text alerts: please sign up to receive notifications regarding school closures or any other GCC emergencies.

Sign up for the GCC Facebook page, follow us on Twitter and YouTube.

Utilize the coffee shop at the Foundation Building and the BCS Cafe

Guam Army National Guard: GCC is a partner in the "Keep your guard up" initiative that the governor launched a couple of weeks ago to provide assistance to those that return from deployment and will be unemployed.

GCC received the 'Best for Vets' recognition award as one of only 38 colleges that was recognized as being veteran friendly. GCC will be starting up a veteran's student organization with staff who are veterans serving as advisors.

E-books: there are some available at the bookstore.

Take advantage of our GCC programs that articulate entirely to UOG so when you graduate from here, you start at UOG as a junior.

Speed bumps: the college will be installing speed bumps on campus to slow down drivers that are speeding through the parking lots. Please be aware of these changes.

Questions asked October 9 & 10, 2013

1. **Can you fix and repair the restrooms?** We have already contracted a company for the repairs. **Are they doing the restrooms in the A-Wing?** I will check on this. I know that we are also working on water pressure problems with buildings 500 and 900 as this has affected their respective restrooms. **The restrooms in the automotive area also need to be repaired.** OK, I will take note of this area. **For the restrooms, they need to put tissues and paper towels in them.** OK, I will let the janitors know about them and have them checked more often.
2. **Are the docks going to be expanded in the Auto Body and Auto Tech service area?** Yes, it is in the Master Plan and as soon as we can identify funding.
3. **Can you please fix the lights in the first floor classrooms in the A-Building?** The lights are so dim and it's hard to read in the classrooms. OK, I will make note of these.
4. **The bad language used by students on campus is totally unacceptable. It's especially bad in the Student Lounge, the Library and at BCS. The Student Handbook does discuss this and that it should not be tolerated.** Our BOT Student Member Steven Alvarez will look into this matter.
5. **As a senior citizen, I'm told that the culinary classes are not under the regular classes and therefore I have to pay for them because they are under special programs or classes. However no one has proven that to me in writing and the catalog does not state anything about them being special classes and I would like to get the final word on that.** I'll pull up the provision that addresses the tuition waiver for senior citizens.
6. **For internships, can we get students reimbursed for the cost of the course? If the businesses have a vested financial interest in the students, they will probably do a better job teaching and training them.** Let me get additional information from you after this session.
7. **Can you please install or fix the light outside of the MPA?** It's very dark in this area at night. Yes, we will take care of that.
8. **Are there still the plans for the entire MPA to be used by the Culinary Program?** Yes, but only after we build a new facility that's big enough to have a graduation, bigger than the MPA but smaller than the Fieldhouse.

9. **Regarding the 24hr study room, will it still stay open and if so, will the college provide more security?** We are currently looking at the feasibility of having it open 24hrs with additional security. We also want to upgrade it with computers, a printer, and install a camera to monitor who uses it. We will also determine if we want to have it open for 24hrs or just till 10pm when classes end.
10. **The Allied Health building has mold and water leaks. What is the college doing to address this?** We are working on the mold problem. We've been cleaning air con ducts, replacing ceiling tiles, and hiring professionals to detect the level of mold. The mold problem is focused on the first floor and should be taken care of before the end of the semester, but I am not aware of the leaks. **Yes, there are leaks from the air conditioners in room 3120.** OK, we will check into that.
11. **Can you please have additional security in parking lots behind building 200 when classes end at night?** It would be great if we can secure the students at night before we secure the classroom doors. We will be increasing our security guard presence for your safety. But please also use the buddy system and walk with someone to your car at night for added protection.
12. **You talk about tracking students 2 years after they leave, are there any job placement provisions being made for students or someone to help sell them to companies? Maybe the instructors can go out and sell these companies on what is being taught to these students.** We are working with companies to have discussions with students right now on the career placement component. We are also working with the new hotel in Tumon and the new hospital.
13. **So you're looking at setting up a program to help students get internships?** We are providing assistance with job or career placement. Internships happen while you're in school, career placement happens when you've completed school. There is an area on the website that shows jobs for students.
14. **Are there any plans to upgrade and modernize the firing range to benefit CJ and other agencies, it's kind of bare?** We received a federal grant from GEPA and the NRA for this and we're currently doing a clean-up assessment first as there's 30 years worth of lead in the ground. There is discussion on considering upgrades to enclose it-put up a fence, clean it, upgrade the infrastructure or have an enclosed range to resolve the noise issues.
15. **Will GCC offer art classes in the future?** There is no discussion to offer art classes in the short term.
16. **Can you please put a roof over sidewalks so we don't get wet when it rains?** We are currently looking for funding to cover the walkways.
17. **Will GCC offer a bachelors program?** No.
18. **Are we going to update the Visual Communication programs?** Yes, it already is funded. The computers and programs are being upgraded and computers will be placed in needed areas.
19. **Can GCC offer intercession classes?** This is a possibility.
20. **Can GCC offer classes in conversational Chinese, Korean and Russian?** It has been in discussion but we are not there yet.
21. **The Computer Lab is sometimes full and I need to print out an assignment but a lot of the students are just on Facebook. How can you track them and get them off?** We will look at that and maybe update the policy associated with the Computer Lab.
22. **Are there any plans to upgrade the Criminal Justice Academy program? Last summer the Academy had one car that 25 cadets had to share.** We have been in communication with GPD and they are going to give us cars that we will fix and then keep. Grant funding is being pursued for additional vehicles. **What about for other facilities?** Those are being addressed in the Building 100 renovations.
23. **Many people go to the states after they graduate where there is a large Hispanic population. Can GCC offer Spanish classes?** We will take note of this and perhaps offer it as a free standing course instead of a whole program but it depends on the interest of the students.
24. **You speak of renovations, can you bring in more food vendors?** We will consider it but with our space limitations right now, it's just not possible. In the future plans, we will put that as a consideration. Maybe we can get other companies to bid. **Are you open to food trucks?** Yes, but we would have to find a spot for them as there are parking considerations.
25. **Will you be improving the area for the construction trades?** Yes. We have to do certain buildings first based on funding we were able to secure. We will eventually get to all the buildings on campus.

26. **The Pre-nursing students have had to change their major to medical assisting because Pell will not cover pre-nursing. Why is this and will it affect our accreditation?** We were advised by USDOE who awards the Pell Grant that the pre-nursing program will not qualify. WASC, or the Western Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation is GCC's primary and most important accreditation. The Financial Aid office is working with students regarding their Pell Grant awards and the Allied Health Department is working on the program accreditation issue.
27. **I graduated from the supplemental law enforcement academy over the summer and it felt like we were severely under supported. What we can do to make it better?** This is one of the reasons we are renovating and expanding Building 100. You will also be able to use the Wellness Center once that's completed. We are also working with GPD and the CJ Department Chair to get more assistance to support the criminal justice program.
28. **Does GCC have a mascot or can we get one?** We may have a mascot. With the Wellness Center and having intra mural sports, we may end up having one and can ask the COPSA leadership to have a discussion on this.
29. **I bought a brand new book that I don't use because I only use and need the e-portion but nothing else. Can we get the e-book without the whole book as I can't even sell this book?** Dan Okada: most companies only offer the bundle packs. Also, the challenge is that books bought from the states will not work on Guam because we're considered an international hub. Mary Okada: we will need to look for other textbook vendors that also know that we are a U.S. Territory and perhaps can unbundle it.
30. **Can we offer more classes in accounting? Every time I need to take a class, it's conflicting with my other classes.** Please let your accounting teachers know so that they can advise their Department Chairs and create a schedule with less conflicts.
31. **My dad is a single parent and it's getting really hard to pay for classes.** Apply for the many scholarships that are available. Check the Financial Aid office and the Financial Aid portal on the website as many times no one even applies for some of these scholarships. Christine Sison: there's also assistance available through the TRiO programs or Project AIM and the CACGP also has other grant aid. Both offices are located on the 2nd floor of the Student Center.
32. **Can we get our deferment letter on-line without having to come to the campus?** No, because proof of identification verification is required.
33. **I don't have a question. I just wanted to acknowledge you because under your leadership with your team, the Guam Community College has become a premier community college and can rival any community college in the states. And, it's highly recommended now in the community to choose GCC over UOG. Thank you very much. We all work hard here for our students.**