

**PRESIDENT'S  
FORUM  
AY2007-2011**

<b>PRESIDENT'S FORUMS:</b>
April 16 & 17, 2007: "Updates with the President"
October 1 & 2, 2007: "Primetime with Your President"
October 27 & 28, 2008: "Do You Know...Your President"
February 17 & 18, 2009: Investing In Guam's Future!!!...with President Mary Okada"
October 20 & 21, 2009: Investing in Guam's Future with President Mary Okada"
February 22 & 23, 2010: Investing in Guam's Future with President Mary Okada"



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OCT 18 2007

Center for Student Involvement

Learning Today ... Leading Tomorrow!

RECEIVED  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

DATE: 10-18-07

TIME: 2:07

INITIAL: [Signature]

TO: Mary A.Y. Okada  
President

VIA: Dr. Michelle Santos  
Dean, School of Technology & Student Services [Signature]

VIA: Bobbie Leon Guerrero  
Program Specialist, Center for Student Involvement [Signature]

FROM: Elizabeth J. Duenas  
Program Coordinator II, Center for Student Involvement [Signature]

RE: "Primetime with Your President" meetings (October 1 & 2, 2007)

DATE: October 17, 2007

*Hafa Adai President Okada!*

Attached, please find a summary of the questions from the "Primetime with Your President" meetings held on October 1 & 2, 2007. This semester, over the two day period, 252 students and faculty signed in and attended your meetings!

Should you need additional information, please contact me at 735-5518.

cc: Priscilla Johns, Program Specialist, Assessment & Institution Effectiveness Office  
Latisha Leon Guerrero, COPSA President

## **PRIMETIME WITH YOUR PRESIDENT**

### **October 1 & 2, 2007**

President Mary Okada introduced herself and talked about the college's undertakings and improvements. Her presentation included:

1. **Computer System Problems:**  
Banner is a new program that will provide student information, payment and schedules for each semester. We have a Network problem which GCC's Management Information Systems (MIS) Department and the Technology Assessment Committee (TAC) are working to correct. As soon as the situation is corrected, the Spring schedule of classes should be up in the system.
2. **Funding:**
  - a. In June, we received a grant of \$2 million dollars for the upgrade of our computer system and we will receive \$400,000 yearly for five (5) years.
  - b. Grant for the Protehi Lenguahen Chamorro Project: This project is to create a script in the Chamorro language on DVD/video. The grant requires that we hire two (2) employees for the planning stage of this program. Any interested students should stop by the Human Resources office and pick up the announcement and an application.
  - c. Grant for Upward Bound for veterans: This grant will help veterans who would like to pursue their education further. We will be announcing the criteria soon and there may be positions available to assist with this grant.
  - d. We also received funding to purchase vocational equipment for the Construction Trades and other related programs to continue to support our program needs to train our students.
  - e. The 2008 budget was signed on Saturday, September 29, 2007, and GCC will receive approximately \$15 million dollars. We originally requested \$16 million dollars so we will receive about \$1 million dollars less.
3. **Military Expansion:**  
The President described the advantages of having the military come to Guam. There is an opportunity for more work for our people on the island, therefore more companies will be requesting for apprentices to be educated and trained.
4. **Vocational Programs/Apprenticeship:**  
We will be building up the programs for vocational and apprentices. With the new high school being built, there will be a request for vocational programs in the establishment. There are more companies getting involved in wanting their employees to receive the proper education and training. To become an apprentice, you need to be employed with one of the companies that is in partnership with the college.

5. Safety and Health Issues:  
A few years ago the tuition was increased with part of the funding to be used for Capital Improvement projects. The Board approved \$322,000 to make repairs for safety and health issues such as: placing the non-skid strips on the walkways, Radon testing, and restroom upgrades.
6. Manpower Development Funds (MDF):  
Funding for MDF comes from companies who hire H2 workers. At the end of the year, they pay a portion to MDF and GCC receives 70% of the MDF. This fund is used to train apprentices so that they can replace the H2 workers. This year there is an appropriation of \$800,000.00 available for this program.
7. Buildings:  
The Governor toured GCC and indicated that he would fund the Student Center Building. Input for the design of the building will come from faculty, staff, administrators and students.
8. 30th year anniversary:  
GCC is celebrating 30 years in November and activities will be held throughout the year.
9. Christmas Tree Sales:  
We are fundraising for the GCC Foundation by selling Christmas trees and wreaths. The Foundation funded the Multi-Purpose Auditorium (MPA) and Tech Center buildings and also paid for the design of the Allied Health building.

## QUESTIONS ASKED DURING OCTOBER 01 & 02, 2007

- 1) **What can be done about courses being offered at the same time and I need both to graduate?**
  - a) You would need to work with your advisor.
  - b) Dean of the School of Technology & Student Services, Ms. Michelle Santos indicated that a Special Project may be able to be done in place of a course, but if lab is a requirement for the course, you will not be able to take it as a Special Project class.
- 2) **Is there a possibility of growth in the secondary program?**

GCC might offer more programs when funding becomes available. More vocational classes will be offered when the new high school building is completed provided that there is an agreement between GCC and GPSS.
- 3) **Will GCC be offering courses with DODEA?**

Yes, students who are half day at DODEA would like to take courses that we offer here. An example is the Culinary program. And we can offer college prep courses for the half day students.
- 4) **What improvements have been made towards the Apprenticeship program? What is the process of completing the program and what decisions have been made towards the progression of the rate for the apprentice?**

Funding is the problem. Manpower Development Funds (MDF) come from companies who hire H2 workers. These companies pay into the MDF an amount which is then used to train and educate our people as apprentices so that they are able to go out and replace the H2 workers. There is funding of over \$800,000 for this fiscal year. More funding is coming in and standards are being upgraded. The Apprenticeship Program is increasing, it now has over 100 students and this will increase within the year.
- 5) **Is there a possibility of offering more foreign language classes like French, Italian, Korean, Chinese, etc? Maybe only once a year, just for enrichment? Also dance class like ballroom dancing?**
  - a) If there are not enough students, then the course will not go through because it needs to be cost effective. Courses can be offered through Continuing Education. If there is a demand for the course, the college will offer it but there has to be more than 8 students for it to be offered because of the financial situation.
  - b) We offered ballroom dancing before and we can offer it again through Continuing Ed.

- 6) **There are too many people chatting and shopping online in the computer lab when I need to do an assignment. I have to wait a long time and there are not enough staff to enforce the “school work” only policy. Also there are a lot of people printing “Bibles” – should enforce limitation of printing.**
- a) When you need a computer to work on your school assignment and you see other students utilizing computers for chatting or non-school work activities, you would need to locate one of the MIS staff and inform them of your needs so they can assist you.
  - b) Response from a student: Students should only print up to 9 pages and not more than that. Yes, the staff is not able to monitor the labs closely but you need to let the staff know so that they can put a stop to it.
- 7) **Is there a restriction on using the computers at the labs?**  
It's available for students who need to work on their assignments for their classes. Some of the restrictions are that there is a minimum of 9 pages for printing, no MySpace, chatting and etc. Please help by informing the staff if you see any student not following the policy.
- 8) **Can you open a new lab so that it can be a working lab only, without internet installed?**  
It will be brought up to the Technology Assessment Committee (TAC) so that something like that can be implemented. There are processes and procedures that need to be followed.
- 9) **First of all, I like the way GCC is a smoke free and betel nut free campus. I appreciate it a lot. Just a concern: Often the ladies restroom has no soap to wash hands and even after a couple of days, it's still the same. Sometimes they have no toilet paper in all the restrooms which is very unpleasant for us.**  
We are in the process of meeting with the contracted cleaners and will inform them of your concerns.
- 10) **A lot of times the computer lab is full of people from 4pm -7pm. Can you open one more room for this time?**  
We will make sure that TAC is informed of your concerns. There are procedures that need to be followed in order for this to happen.
- 11) **Based on your own feeling, how do you feel about the military expansion? What are the advantages & disadvantages? Based on your calculation think of the negative (disadvantages) of that movement, how do you know that it'll do any good to our land or people?**  
With the military coming in, it will mean more work for our people. There is not enough room on base to house them so they will be building housing outside and providing more work for our people. Apprenticeship program will build up.
- 12) **Can we do a Charter Day like UOG?**  
When we had high school here, we did have something like that. Maybe work with the Center for Student Involvement (CSI) and Council On Postsecondary Student Affairs (COPSA) to have something sometime in November.
- 13) **Smoking issues-why and how was the smoking ban initiated? Was there student input? Can we put a tent for the smokers outside the fence?**
- a) Dean Michelle Santos indicated that smoking was implemented because a faculty member filed a grievance regarding smoking.

- b) There was a committee created and the previous Student Board member was part of the committee. She recommended to the Board of Trustees to implement the no smoking policy over a one year period. Designated areas were implemented for one year, and then by June 01, 2007, the no smoking policy was placed into full effect.
  - c) Regarding tents for smokers outside the fence, because the college does not own the property we cannot put up a canopy. Maybe we can work with the Mayor's Office, however, it might be private property.
- 14) **What about transferable/articulating courses to UOG? And do our courses only transfer to UOG and Chaminade University?**
- a) We are working with UOG to articulate more of our courses and there were some that were approved recently.
  - b) GCC courses might be accepted at other state colleges and universities. We only have an agreement with UOG and Chaminade but that does not mean other states don't accept our courses. You need to provide your transcript and a copy of our catalog to the university or college you are going to go to and have them check if the courses are accepted.
- 15) **Is UOG a vocational school because they offer some courses that GCC offers?**  
No, because UOG offers baccalaureate degree programs. An Associates Degree in Liberal Arts articulates to UOG but some of the courses are accepted as general education courses. It's cheaper to take the classes here.
- 16) **There are staff with bad attitudes, what can we do about this? I asked to use the phone to call for a ride and then was given an attitude about using the phone.**  
You need to report that to the CSI or Dean's office so that the issue can be brought to the proper administrator to resolve the issue.
- 17) **Will GCC have a dorm? I am a student here but using the UOG dorm. Was told that I would have to move because UOG students are the priority.**
- a) GCC borrowed money to build a dorm, the orange building was built to be a dorm. But after Typhoon Pongsona, the Administration Building was so badly damaged we had to relocate our offices to the dorm building. After much review and research we saw no need to have a dorm and found that it would cost more for the students than if they were to rent an apartment close by.
  - b) It is cheaper to go outside to rent because we would have offered higher rent for our facility.
  - c) Because we do not have any commitment with UOG to have our students use their dorm, we cannot force UOG to let our students stay there.
  - d) What we can do is maybe go around and get a listing of rentals offered close by to be provided only as information to our students.
- 18) **Why is the governor not supporting the culinary program?**  
The governor doesn't choose which programs to separate when our budget is reduced. The Budget is appropriated but it does not say where the money is being allocated to. Our reduced budget does not

only affect the Culinary program but also other programs as well. The GCC Management Team needs to work with college administrators and program Department Chairpersons to determine how they can reduce their budgets based on the reduced funds we will receive.

- 19) **Can Financial Aid vouchers be inputted online?**
- a) Yes, our staff is working to ensure that happens, but as of now it has not been implemented. Payments using credit card/checks will also soon be integrated online.
  - b) We are currently having technical difficulties with the network system. TAC is working with MIS to stabilize the situation so online vouchers and Spring Registration will be available soon.
- 20) **What can you do as President to improve the quality of our campus restroom facilities? (i.e.) cleanliness, supplies, etc...**
- a) Upgrades will be made to all the bathrooms, starting with the worst ones as priority. As additional funding becomes available, all the restrooms will be changed. Regular cleaning is being addressed. Arrangements have been made with the contractors to replace tissue and keep the toilets clean; bathrooms will be checked and cleaned at least once every hour.
  - b) **Smoking in the restroom?**  
Those caught smoking in the bathroom will be warned and proper action will be taken. There is a process for students who are caught smoking tobacco & chewing betel nut on campus. If you see anyone smoking or chewing, report them to the Student Support Services Office in B Building.
- 21) **What can you do about providing covered walkways for shade when walking from Building C to the Library?**  
With the construction that will be happening, the college can not put up anything just yet. When the Allied Health building goes up, then the overhang shade will be worked into the plans.
- 22) **How about a field house like UOG?**  
There is not enough space on the campus to have a field house, but if there is an interest for a weight room/game room, one can be implemented into the student center, depending on the request from students. Again, you need to get involved in the planning stage of the Student Center building.
- 23) **The Book Store is too small we have to stand outside to wait to pay and pick-up our books, are there any plans to expand it?**  
There may be an opportunity to move the book store into the Student Center building. With this move, there can be a bigger store where you'll just have to make one-stop to purchase all your books and supplies.
- 24) **Is there an emergency channel or radio station regarding weather emergencies or typhoons to help students who live in other areas of the island?**  
Broadcasting will be done over the MyGCC website on the internet. The college is working on having the message texted to students who register their phone with the college.

- 25) **Can the computer lab be opened during the weekend?**  
If there is a need to extend the hours, then the lab will extend its hours. There has to be a need from the students to extend the hours. The library can also be considered if there is a show of need for extra hours.
- 26) **Can chairs/benches be put in hallways for students who are waiting for their classes?**  
All the benches will be replaced once the flow of funds begins to be available. We will work with our vocational instructors to have their students assist in building benches as a project.
- 27) **Can you tell us about the Forensic Lab?**  
The lab is not a GCC project, it belongs to GPD. GCC received additional property so that the Forensic Lab is on our campus because of the courses that we offer. The Forensic Lab construction will start soon.
- 28) **JFK has deaf students who will be transferring to the college after graduation. Do we have the services to assist them? Is it difficult to get interpreters for deaf students?**  
a) If a student needs an interpreter, we have a pool of candidates that are employed by GPSS. We can also advertise for interpreters if we are not able to get any from GPSS.  
b) **Suggestions from an instructor at the meeting: We need to provide more training so that our students here at GCC can become interpreters because there is a need for more interpreters on island.**  
Maybe we can advertise to the military to assist in interpreting.
- 29) **How about a Clinic for the Student Health Center?**  
The Student Health Center will be moved to the Student Center building. There are only two (2) nurses right now and we need to hire staff to assist them. We are looking at areas of need so that we can hire staff to assist in those critical areas.
- 30) **GCC is violating the ADA compliance for not having an elevator in the Rotunda at the Student Services & Administration Building. Also there are a lot of areas that do not have any automatic doors for accessibility. Alan Salas is a Student Rep for the Disability committee.**  
a) The Board had approved funding of \$322,000.00 for repairs and safety issues which includes placing anti-skid surfaces on the walkways, EPA requirements with parking, the Fire Alarm System for the campus and other related work. The elevator will cost about \$85,000.00 and is one of the other issues that is in the list of things to do when funding becomes available. If a student stops by the Rotunda and needs to see someone who is located on the second floor, that staff member will come downstairs to assist him/her.  
b) **I was booted out by three (3) different departments for the Work Study program because of my disability. What can I do?**  
You would need to talk to the Financial Aid administrator, Ms. Micki Lonsdale. There is also the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) program available; you would need to talk with Ms. Christine Sison with the Career Placement Center.  
c) **Is there an ADA committee? What is happening?**  
Julie Stein is the ADA coordinator; you would need to talk to her about meeting dates.

- 31) **Will there be more parking spaces on campus?**  
There is a redesign plan for parking with the new building coming up. Funding has been put aside for renovating the parking areas as soon as the building is completed.
- 32) **Are there plans of bringing back the Horticulture program?**  
If there is a demand then we will look into it. We need to ensure that there are enough students who want to take the course because of the financial situation.
- 33) **Can GCC have a Gym?**  
The gym can be considered as part of the Student Center building. Let the CSI office know of your input.
- 34) **Is there a “Hot zone” on campus?**  
Wireless access is available at certain parts of the campus. TAC is looking to determine what needs to be done and also waiting for more funding.
- 35) **The parking in front of Student Support Services Office, is that parking slot with a cone always reserved for employees? Is there employee parking for these people and if not, can they do that?**  
It's an emergency parking slot and there is a designated person who uses that parking. That is the only parking that is reserved, I don't even have a reserved parking and I don't want one.
- 36) **How did you get where you are?**  
Five (5) years to get my BA, another five (5) years for MA and working on my doctoral degree.
- 37) **What job did you have when you were in college?**  
I worked at Pay-Less in Sinajana, till I moved to their main office located in Agana.
- 38) **How about a Daycare facility on campus?**  
Opportunity –after school program. We use to have a Daycare facility off campus because of limited space on campus. Because of the financial situation we were not able to maintain the facility. We now have 700 GW cross enrolled students coming over to GCC, we still do not have the space. I'm not sure if the college is looking in that direction at this time.
- 39) **What about benches at the Foundation building?**  
We had benches for students located around the campus but due to deterioration of the benches, some had to be removed because of safety. We are in the process of working with the vocational instructor to have his GW students build benches as a project. Funding needs to be considered.
- 40) **Are there any projects to expand the Education department space? The department needs an area to store supplies for class projects?**  
The Education department needs to submit plans to their dean for additional space for a Resource room. There are plans for a 2<sup>nd</sup> story for Buildings 100 and 200 as part of the 10 year master plan.

- 41) **What is the status of the computers in the Project AIM lab? The computers are still not working.**  
There is a Work Order to have the computers set up but it is in process. MIS is dealing with Network problems. There are other labs available at this time, please use them until the Network is up.
- 42) **How come we cannot buy books from the Book Store for resources? To purchase books, we need an ID and schedule.**  
Books should be available for all students. We must first provide books to students who are enrolled in classes and that is why we request for your ID and schedule. After the Add/Drop period, all books should be available for sale. I will check with the Book Store Manager and Procurement Administrator regarding this situation.
- 43) **A car was broken into and a computer, computer software and other equipment were stolen. What can be done to prevent this?**  
We do have security on campus, but you would need to inform the Student Support Services Office right away. You should always report any security issues to this office.
- 44) **Comments about Project AIM staff: Elvie and Arline not qualified to be there. They do not assist the students. Are tutors supposed to be certified? Rules are not being followed by staff concerning food in the room. Students are not allowed to eat in Project Aim office but its okay for staff to eat there. Why?**  
You would need to talk to Dean Santos regarding these issues. Dean Santos is here and she will look into it.
- 45) **We need lighting around campus? The center of the campus was not well lit when there was a function for the students?**  
We received equipment from the military through the General Services Agency (GSA), but it is not working. This equipment called a boom, is needed to lift staff up to change the fluorescent lights. We are working to have this boom repaired so that the campus light bulbs can be replaced as soon as they burn out.
- 46) **Is there emergency lighting available in the classrooms?**  
Yes, there should be emergency lights in each room. Please let the Student Support Services Office know if the lights are not working so that it can be corrected. We are working on getting backup generators to support some of the buildings. This MPA has a generator and we are in the process of getting one for the Tech Center.
- 47) **Is math from UOG transferable to GCC? I took MA085 from UOG.**  
UOG MA085 has two levels. If you complete the second level you can take MA110. You need to talk to a Counselor. We do have a Counselor here tonight to assist you.

**These two questions listed below were dropped off after the meetings with President Okada therefore she was not able to respond to them.**

- 1. I have a Journeyman's certificate (Apprenticeship program) in Culinary Arts & I am currently enrolled this semester pursuing an Associates degree. My question is how come no one on island honors this journeyman's certificate??? What's the point? And can our credits be transferred to an off-island college?**
- 2. You said the military build-up would create more jobs for students in certain fields of study; will you work closely w/them in creating some kind of program to place students in jobs (long-term or temp) or internships (w/out pay and just exp.) w/them in their respective fields of study?**

TO: Mary A.Y. Okada  
President

VIA: Dr. Michelle Santos *MS*  
Dean, School of Technology & Student Services

VIA: Esther Yanger *EY*  
Associate Dean, School of Technology & Student Services

VIA: Bobbie Leon Guerrero *BLG*  
Program Specialist, Center for Student Involvement

FROM: Donnie Lizama *DL*  
Program Coordinator II, Center for Student Involvement

RE: "Investing In Guam's Future!!!...with President Mary Okada" meetings  
(February 17 & 18, 2009)

DATE: March 2, 2009

RECEIVED  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
DATE: MAR 04 2009  
TIME: *2:00*  
INITIAL: *DL*

***Hafa Adai President Okada!***

Attached, please find a summary of the questions from "Investing In Guam's Future!!!... with President Mary Okada" meetings held on February 17 & 18, 2009. This semester, over the two day period, 166 students and faculty signed in and attended your meetings!

Should you need additional information, please contact me at 735-5518.

Cc: Dr. Gina Tudela, Assistant Director, Office of Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness  
Charlene Flores, Student Member, Board of Trustees  
Tara Pascua, President, COPSA

## **“Investing In Guam’s Future!!!...with President Mary Okada” Meetings**

February 17 & 18, 2009

President Okada was introduced and immediately began her presentation by outlining the financial outlook, services and projects that the college is undertaking.

1. Guam Community College’s financial outlook.  
To provide students insight of Government of Guam financial condition and how it affects the college.
  - a. Secured \$500,000 in grants for equipment for the construction trades department.
  - b. \$2.4 million for a new Learning Resource Center.
  - c. Cost cutting measures by increasing the thermostat of the air conditioners to 78° degrees, shut off lights in rooms when not in use and color printing is cut to the bare minimum.
2. GCC’s upcoming activities.
  - a. Village Outreach Thursday February 26, 2009, at 6pm at the Ordot/Chalan Pago Community Center. Representatives from Counseling, Financial Aid, the Student Health Center, and Admissions and Registration, will be on hand to make presentations and help students.
  - b. Job Fair at the Micronesian Mall on Saturday February 21, 2009, from 11am to 2pm.
  - c. ProStart Competition at the Agana Shopping Center on Saturday February 21, 2009, from 10am to 3pm.
3. Capital Improvement Projects around the campus such as:
  - a. ADA compliant doors;
  - b. Install benches;
  - c. Install typhoon shutters;
  - d. Repair windows on campus.
4. Construction Projects that will be taking place over the next couple of years.
  - a. Allied Health Center. Construction has begun and is on track to be completed by September 2009.
  - b. Learning Resource Center expansion. GCC received \$2.4 million in grant money to begin expanding the library.
  - c. Student Center. Working to secure funding for this building as the Architectural and Engineering plans are already complete.
5. Student Representatives  
The President spoke of the many ways that students can have their voices heard regarding their concerns or suggestions for improvements. Currently, students sit on the following:
  - a. College Governing Council;
  - b. Resource and Budget Committee;
  - c. Committee on College Assessment.

The President also noted that their Council On Postsecondary Student Affairs or COPSA Officers and the Board of Trustees Student Member are key student leaders that can also bring their concerns to the administration or to the Board. She encouraged students to talk to their student leaders or email her directly with their concerns.

## QUESTIONS ASKED FEBRUARY 17 & 18, 2009

1. **Student tuition, still rising every year. Based on what was approved by the Board of Trustees, tuition will continue to rise until 2011. How much?** The next tuition increase is set for Fall 2009 but it may be suspended for 2009 after the Board of Trustees (BOT) review. The BOT is aware that students need relief due to these financially challenging times. Pell Grant has also increased over the years. Apply at the Financial Aid office and see what other scholarships are available that you can apply for.
2. **With the Government of Guam economic crisis, will this affect the instructors, class schedules or summer school?** No, it will not affect existing programs that are in place that extend into the summer. There will be no increase in class size. We will still be offering classes during the summer.
3. **Is the Parking lot space going to increase for students? Will a Parking stall for bikes/scooters be available in the future?** The entire college area is open for student parking. There are parking slots at the Tech Center and/or the area outside Gate 2. I will look into the parking stalls for bicycles, scooters and motorcycles.
4. **Will there be a covered area built outside the gate for smokers?** The shelter area in front of Gate 3 is for the Mass Transit bus riders and was erected by the Mangilao mayor. I will look into a shelter area for smokers. Please do not leave trash in the smoking areas off-campus out of respect to our neighbors around the college.
5. **Can a speed bump be placed near the bus stop shelter at the front of the campus?** I will check with the mayor's office regarding placing a speed bump. Beware of speeding cars and report speeders.
6. **Can Security monitor the cars in the parking lot?** Our GCC Security does make regular rounds of the campus. However, they can't be everywhere at one time so we need you students to also be our eyes and ears and report any vandalism you may see. With the Forensic building just completed next to GCC, we are working with GPD re: curriculum for classes, ex. Forensic Science. Hopefully, the increased police presence will deter speeders and vandals from ruining our vehicles.
7. **Will there be new computer labs open in the future as there are only two open right now and it gets noisy?** We are working on additional computers to be put in the new library and maybe the Student Center.
8. **Can the parking spots be spaced out a little bit more so we're not so close to the other cars?** We are checking on ADA issues for parking so we will also look into that. With all the construction, we understand that there is less parking. The corner lot across from Victoria Market is GCC property so you can park there.
9. **What is the College doing about the stray dogs?** This is not just a GCC issue but an island wide issue. Student Support Services is aware of this situation and the dogs keep returning. Please do not feed the dogs as this will only make them keep coming back. For your safety, please do not try to catch them either.
10. **Can we have a variety of café's on campus?** Because of space limitations, we only have room for one location, one vendor – please share what you like or want with this vendor.

11. **I live at the UOG dorms but attend GCC, can GCC students use the UOG gym or receive wireless service for free?** I will look into it.
12. **Will there be a work out/gym room in GCC?** The new Student Center will have a work out room area.
13. **The price of textbooks keep increasing, can the college help?** GCC is looking into paying a fee to have our students be able to download e-books on-line for a nominal fee, however, you will not be able to print these books here on campus.
14. **Does the Board of Trustees care about increasing student fees?** The BOT does care and will hear about your concerns now re: increased cost of living so students can continue to attend GCC.



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RECEIVED  
NOV 07 2008

Center for Student Involvement

Learning Today ... Leading Tomorrow!

TO: Mary A.Y. Okada  
President

VIA: Dr. Michelle Santos  
Dean, School of Technology & Student Services

VIA: Esther Yanger  
Associate Dean, School of Technology & Student Services

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

RE: "Do You Know ...Your President" meetings (October 27 & 28, 2008)

DATE: November 7, 2008

RECEIVED  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
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***Hafa Adai President Okada!***

Attached, please find a summary of the questions from the "Do You Know ...Your President" meetings held on October 27 & 28, 2008. This semester, over the two day period, 162 students and faculty signed in and attended your meetings!

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

cc: Dr. Gina Tudela, Assistant Director, Office of Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness  
Charlene Flores, Student Member, Board of Trustees  
Tara Pascua, President, COPSA

# **“Do You Know ... your President Mary Okada” Meetings**

## **October 27 & 28, 2008**

President Okada was introduced and immediately began her presentation utilizing visual media to outline services and projects that the college is undertaking.

1. Early Bird Registration for Spring on Nov. 18 & 19, 2008
  - a. To encourage students to register early for Spring 2009, a special Early Bird Registration session will be held from 1-6pm on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in the Multi-Purpose Auditorium. Representatives from Counseling, Financial Aid, the Student Health Center, and Admissions and Registration, will be on hand to assist students.
  - b. As an incentive, the first 100 students to register will receive a free t-shirt, water bottle or other prizes while supplies last.
2. Upgrades to Buildings A & C  
The additional funds from the tuition increase will be used to make technological upgrades to buildings A & C, with some upgrades being made by this Christmas break. Upgrades such as having each room have:
  - a. Readily available multi-media equipment;
  - b. Whiteboard and screens; and
  - c. A professional environment with wired and wireless access.
3. Capital Improvement Projects  
Work will soon begin on making a number of Capital Improvement Projects around the campus such as:
  - a. Reline parking slots for ADA compliance and access;
  - b. Install water fountains;
  - c. Repair and/or renovate restrooms;
  - d. Replace trash receptacles / benches;
  - e. Install typhoon shutters;
  - f. Repair windows in the Student Services and Administration Building.
4. The Power of 3: GCC's "Big Three" Construction Projects  
President Okada spoke of the major construction projects that will be taking place over the next couple of years.
  - a. Allied Health Center. Construction has begun and is on track to be completed by next year.
  - b. Learning Resource Center expansion. GCC received \$2.5 million in grant money to begin expanding the library.
  - c. Student Center. Originally there was a bill under consideration in the legislature to provide funding for the Student Center. Because of the JFK High School closure, the Student Center funding is now going to be used to build a new JFK. The President is working on securing other funding for this building and the Architectural and Engineering plans are already about 90% complete.
5. Student Representatives  
The President spoke of the many ways that students can have their voices heard regarding their concerns or suggestions for improvements. Currently, students sit on the following:
  - a. College Governing Council;
  - b. Resource and Budget Committee;
  - c. Committee on College Assessment.

The President also noted that their Council On Postsecondary Student Affairs or COPSA Officers and the Board of Trustees Student Member are key student leaders that can also bring their concerns to the administration or to the Board. She encouraged students to talk to their student leaders or email her directly with their concerns.

## QUESTIONS ASKED OCTOBER 27 & 28, 2008

1. **Is the Administration Building parking lot open at night for students to park?** Yes. The entire college area is open for students to park. In addition to the Administration Building parking lot, there is also parking available by the Tech Center.
2. **Will anyone be building a covered area for the students who go outside the front gate to smoke?** We are checking with the Mayor's office on this along with providing shelter for our students who are Mass Transit bus riders. However, if you do go right outside the gate or across the street to smoke, please do not throw your cigarette butts and other trash on the ground out of respect to our neighbors around the college.
3. **Does the Forensic building belong to GCC?** The land is GCC's however the building belongs to the Guam Police Department. We are working with GPD to develop curriculum for classes dealing with Forensic Science.
4. **What are we doing about our trash situation?** Currently, because of the new trash guidelines, we are sorting all our cardboard items and will begin recycling of other items.
5. **Why can't I get wi-fi everywhere on campus? Sometimes I can't get connections in some buildings like near the library.** Dean of Technology and Student Services, Dr. Michele Santos: If you can't get wi-fi, you may not be in a hot spot area. We are working on putting up signs to indicate hot spots around the campus for your immediate reference.
6. **How can we prevent getting virus' from GCC computers?** I will check with our MIS Department regarding this situation.
7. **How long do we have to wait to get updated computers in Room CJ104?** I will work with the MIS Department and the Social Science Department regarding this situation.
8. **It takes too long to get on-line or computers move very slowly during class time, what can be done about this?** We are aware that there are band width problems that need to be resolved.
9. **Will there be new computer labs open in the future as there are only two open right now?** We are working on additional computers to be put in the new library and maybe the Student Center.
10. **For my class, MA108, everything moves too slowly for this on-line course.** This has to do with the server lines. I will have the Technology Advisory Committee check into this.
11. **Why are the price of textbooks we buy at the Bookstore so high?** GCC currently purchases the textbooks directly from the publishers and this does not require us to go out for a regular bid process. GCC would have to go out to bid and identify a vendor that may give us a cheaper price but this may take longer. Some students purchase their books directly over the internet. GCC could also pay a vendor to have our students be able to download books on-line for a fee. However, students who get a book on-line will not be able to print these books here on campus.
12. **What about the return policy of books even if it's only a couple of hours? I bought a book and returned it three hours later and was charged a 30% restocking fee.** I will check into that.
13. **What happens if I register for Spring semester now and then buy my book. But by the time the spring semester comes around, the book changed, now why should I be penalized?** You would need to tell the bookstore manager that you are getting your book for your spring semester class. We order our books now for the spring semester to ensure that they will arrive on time. Our vendors are instructed that if a new version comes out, they need to send us the updated version. We are also working to make sure that for books that come with software, that the software matches our current computer system.

14. **I know that the card catalog is accessible on the MyGCC website, but is there another way to find a book without having to go on a computer?** Dean of Technology and Student Services, Dr. Michele Santos: There are six computers available at the library for finding books. **Yes, but sometimes all those computers are full with students using them.** Dean Santos: What you need to do is ask the Library front desk staff to assist you. **I have but they just tell me to go on-line.** Dean Santos: Then you need to inform the staff that if all the computers are being used, maybe they can assist you by utilizing their computers. I will make sure that I also call the library staff regarding this situation.
15. **Can we make the parking slots a little bit larger so we're not so close to other cars?** We are checking on ADA issues for those parking slots so we will also look into that. With all the construction that is going on, we understand that there is less parking. Please be advised that the corner lot across from Victoria Market is GCC property so you can also park there.
16. **Can the bookstore be made larger?** We are currently looking at getting more space for the bookstore, perhaps in the new Student Center.
17. **Why is it taking so long to process the Pell Grant checks?** Vice President of Finance, Carmen Santos: The delay has occurred because we have converted to using a new system and at the same time, we are also working with the rollover of funds from last year. Thank you for being so patient, the checks should be coming out by late November or early December.
18. **I've been on campus since 2004. I was first under financial aid (Pell Grant) and AHRD, but now I'm on a new system under Culinary Arts. I received some refunds which made my account all 'screwed' up and now I supposedly owe money. Therefore, now I cannot register because I owe money.** Vice President of Finance, Carmen Santos: The Pell Grant requires that we cannot apply refunds to your account, we have to issue you a check that you can in turn sign over to us to pay for any balance owed. Because you went from one payment system to another program, I will have to take a look at your personal account. Please see me after this session.
19. **There are some wireless areas on campus that do not work. You seem to get on-line with the wireless access that goes no where. Why is that? I'm using my personal laptop and can't get on.** Faculty Member, Mike Setzer: Sometimes you need a password for some areas or the rebar in the concrete buildings does not allow the signal to go through. President Okada: I will check with MIS on this and also have it brought up with the Technical Advisory Committee.
20. **I registered for summer classes, paid cash, one class was cancelled and I am still waiting for my refund. When will the refund checks be issued?** Vice President of Finance, Carmen Santos: We are currently working on these refunds and they should be out shortly. President Okada: Please be advised that we purchased and are implementing a \$3million dollar system to automate everything from registration, on-line payments, payments, billing, etc. However, we have not hired any new employees to implement this system. Therefore, our employees are doing their current job duties and working to implement the new system so some tasks are just taking a little longer to complete.
21. **I have taken EN100, taken 6 times and I still can't pass. Can the college offer another class that I can pass to better prepare me to finish EN100?** Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Ray Somera: We made a study last year of the number of students consistently not completing our English and Math classes in order to determine the support services needed for students like you. We will be hiring 5 tutors in English and 5 for Math to help our students pass their classes. This is in addition to the students in the AmeriCorp program who will also help us with tutors and a tutoring center. Faculty Member, Mike Setzer: The General Education Committee also made these recommendations to get tutors for one on one help. However, we still need to hear from students like you to let us know what your needs are. Faculty Member, Gary Hartz: If you go onto the website and click on Faculty Senate, you can see all the different committees. Send committee members your issues or concerns so we can address them. President Okada: The program Project AIM is also available for tutoring if you qualify. Dr. Somera: There is also a program called STEP, Student Temporary Employment Program, where students can work and get paid as tutors. Register for the program with the Career Placement Center, the TSS Dean, or the counselors.

22. **What's the story on the dorm or the orange building?** The current Student Services and Administration Building was originally supposed to be the dorm. However, in 2002, Typhoon Pongsona severely damaged the old Administration Building and all the offices had to move. The only place available for these offices to move to was the recently completed dorm building. Also, by the time the dorm was completed, the economy had changed and further studies showed that it was cheaper for students to live off campus than it would be for them to rent a room in our dorm. After the typhoon, we received federal money and tobacco money that we used to rebuild the old Admin Building and turn it into the Tech Center which we fully equipped so we could offer more classes and training.
23. **Is the student tuition still going to rise every year?** Based on what was approved by the GCC Board of Trustees, tuition will continue to rise until 2011. **How much?** It will increase by \$20 per credit hour each year. However, the Pell Grant has also increased over the years so that increase can be used towards the tuition increase. You should also apply at the Financial Aid office and see what other scholarships are available. We also run ads for people who would like to donate money to form their own scholarships and these are also available for your use.
24. **Our tuition has gotten so much higher that we're only \$50 cheaper than UOG. Because the cost of everything is rising, can we stop the tuition increase?** Please keep in mind that the tuition increase plan was approved by the Board of Trustees and also approved by the students a few years back. Students understood that the college needed additional funding to hire more full time faculty members in order to add more classes and to make improvements to our campus. Board of Trustees Student Member Charlene Flores: As the President stated, a survey was done of students and they understood the need to raise the tuition gradually over a number of years as we needed funds to improve the college. I will bring the issue back to the Board. President Okada: When we did this increase a few years ago, students agreed with the increase as funds would be used for improvements. Tonight, I have outlined the various ways the money will be used to improve our college. The Board of Trustees does care about its students and I will bring your concerns to them. Also, the University of Guam has also been raising their tuition rates over the years. If you are looking at getting a 4 year degree from UOG, our tuition rates are still lower so see what courses you can take here that will transfer over to UOG.
25. **There are lots of bulletin boards that have information that is over 4 years old. Can we make sure there is updated information out there?** There is updated information on the GCC website. I will have staff go around the campus and remove any old information that is out there.

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**PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

Initials: ImB

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JUN 01 2010

**TO:** Dr. Mary A.Y. Okada  
President

**VIA:** Dr. Michelle Santos  
Dean, School of Technology & Student Services

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

**RE:** "Investing in Guam's Future with President Mary Okada" meetings  
(February 22 & 23, 2010)

**DATE:** May 28, 2010

***Hafa Adai President Okada!***

Attached, please find a summary of the questions from the "Investing in Guam's Future with President Mary Okada" meetings held on February 22 & 23, 2010. This semester, over the two day period, 226 students and faculty signed in and attended your meetings!

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

cc: Dr. Gina Tudela, Assistant Director, Office of Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness  
Paling April Cruz, Student Member, Board of Trustees  
James Mallicoat, President, COPSA

# **“Investing in Guam’s Future with Your President Mary Okada”**

February 22 & 23, 2010

President Okada was introduced and immediately began her presentation discussing projects whereby the college is investing in Guam’s future. She later addressed questions from students.

1. Changes on campus with new buildings
  - a. Anthony A. Leon Guerrero Allied Health Center – opened this semester and houses Science classes and Allied Health Programs
  - b. Learning Resource Center - first Government of Guam LEED certified building on campus – energy efficient, environmentally friendly. December groundbreaking, open in Spring 2011
  - c. Student Center Building - Grant document pending signatures at the federal level; bookstore to relocate temporarily to the Student Center until the old library gets renovated.
  - d. Library – once new LRC building is completed, construction on old library to begin sometime in January 2011.
2. Temporary parking areas - coral to be laid down for now as a temporary measure
  - a. Along the concrete wall by the library and building 900
  - b. Across from the Allied Health Center
3. Military build-up is here
  - a. Fall 2009 semester record enrollment, 2,100 students.
  - b. Spring 2010, secondary programs & apprenticeship numbers are up.
4. Met with U.S. Department of Education, Assistant Secretary for Communication & Outreach, Peter Cunningham.
5. President Obama introduced the Graduation American Initiative providing \$10 billion to community colleges over the next couple of years. GCC has already requested funding for improvements and since we are the only community college here, we can get a lot of that money.
6. Congresswoman M. Bordallo has seen progress on earmark funds targeted for the college for construction trades.
7. Tuition rates – Board of Trustees has voted to hold the tuition increase back from Fall 2010.
8. Funding for school – you need to apply
  - a. Scholarships and free money - there are six scholarships that range from \$500.00 to \$5,000.00 each.
  - b. Government of Guam Student loan program - \$6,000.00 for 2 years, just work on Guam to pay back the loan.
9. Open Campus – March 20
  - a. Theme - Your Path to Success
  - b. Rock climbing, food, drinks, and something for everybody.
  - c. Dr. Lee Goth will speak on Forensic Science.
  - d. Invite all your families, friends and community.
10. Staff, administrators, faculty and the Board of Trustees are here because you are here, we serve you. Take advantage of all the services the Guam Community College has to offer.

## **Questions asked February 22 & 23, 2010**

1. **Where do you apply for the Government of Guam loan?** For financial aid or scholarships apply at the Financial Aid Office and see Ms. Micki Lonsdale.
2. **Is the new Library going have individual cubicles for studying?** The new library will have little private rooms for meetings and individual cubicles.
3. **What’s going to happen to the Foundation building?** Once the new Learning Resources Center is done and we move everything into the new building and out of the old building, we will put a concrete roof on the Foundation building and completely renovate it. Each time we vacate a building, we will renovate the old building. Our goal is to cluster each program together and my goal is to put the Adult Education Office in the first floor.

4. **Will there be any additional parking provided on campus?** We are looking at a parking area across from the shooting range. We will redo the parking area near the library and we looking into a multi-level parking garage on another part of the property.
5. **Would there be any additional courses that can be transferred to UOG?** Yes, several courses are being worked on. The catalog lists some now and we are hoping with the new grant for curriculum development in nursing and other additional courses. The Liberal Arts degree from the college transfers to UOG.
6. **What happened to all the Trades Programs that GCC used to have during the day?** We still have Automotive and Construction and have added Diesel Technology. We have also just identified \$600,000.00 to buy equipment for automotive, construction, carpentry, and welding classes. Some courses are not on campus here but if you are in an Apprenticeship Program, you can take it at Guam Trades Academy and GCC will pay for that class. Because there was no demand for some courses, we have had to archive them and put them on the shelf. When a need arises again, we just take them back down.
7. **How soon will the Diesel courses be implemented?** Diesel should have started already, we have hired an instructor and class will be in full force in Fall 2010.
8. **Are there any future plans for a GCC dorm?** It is cheaper to rent an apartment across the street than it would be for us to build a dorm. We could look into having a representative discuss a partnership with some of the apartment complexes in the area. If you're interested, drop your name off at my office.
9. **Can you build or put in racks for bikes and scooters?** Specifications for bike racks are in the making. Let's also get energy efficient, save money and gas by riding the bus. The Mass Transit stops right in front of the college.
10. **Is there any on-going study on how to lower the cost of books?** There was a vendor who visited the college a couple of weeks ago and we have discussed this with them. There are many considerations: e-books, copyright issues, publishers controlling the costs of their books. We are looking at other options. DEAN MICHELLE SANTOS: FYI, the math department is looking into getting one book that will take you from MA095 to MA108. This will save you from having to buy multiple books. JOLEEN EVANGELISTA: We are working with vendors as sometimes Guam is considered international and we are not on their list. We are also looking into possibilities of being able to download only certain chapters that we need.
11. **I took a class already and bought my book. I gave it to my brother and now they are saying he has to buy his own book?** Because of the CD and the license, it is only good for one student. That's why we're looking into getting other books so that it is valid no matter how many times you have to take the class.
12. **Will there be an increase in work-study?** This is set by a formula the college uses, it hasn't increased in 10 years. However, Pell Grant money is going up so you can expect to receive more money.
13. **Is there any way benches can be placed at 'D' wing?** Benches & trash receptacles have been ordered and are here. We just need to get them installed now.
14. **Is there training for the Marine environment?** The Apprenticeship Program is in place already - Marine insulated construction. The Shipyard does participate in our Apprenticeship Program and the courses are based on the employer's needs and college requirements.
15. **Does GCC have a plan for job placement?** Yes, we will have an office that will facilitate job placement. Employers do come to us and we have lots of companies requesting for interns. Continuously check on MyGCC – let your instructors know as they work with their Advisory Councils and are in touch with industry people.
16. **Can GCC develop a grant writing class?** The college does not offer grant writing classes. The Pay-Less Foundation offers grant writing classes for non-profit groups and individuals.
17. **Can we get a gym?** A small workout room may be in the Student Center, but not a full gym.
18. **If a person on campus starts shooting, you're supposed to lock yourself in the classroom. However, some of the doors for the classrooms do not lock from the inside without a key. What if the instructor goes to the bathroom and a shooting starts, how are we supposed to lock the door?** I will check into this. Please also assist us by reporting people who bring weapons to school.
19. **Are there any plans to build an Art department?** Not in the near future. Here at the college, we deal with career and technical education programs.
20. **Can GCC have satellite classes in schools?** We have some off-site classes already such as Apprenticeship Program classes at GTA, Diesel Technology in Tiyan, and Adult Education & GED classes at the mayor's offices. We do have satellite classes in high schools right now, however they are only for the high school students.

21. **Could GCC expand the computer labs as they are always crowded?** Additional labs will be open when the new library is done. **And, there doesn't seem to be a lot of wireless access here on campus, why?** FRANK CAMACHO: We are expanding plans for the wireless access and making it stronger wireless in some areas. **Do you need a code to get internet wireless?** FC: yes, in some areas. We are trying to limit the use to only students so having a code can help us do this. We are also working on an open wireless signal for the campus. **Will there be wireless at the Tech Center?** FC: it is not open at this time. Our intent is to open it later but students will need to have their code to access it.
22. **Some Sunday's, students cannot access MYGCC?** The system needs to go through a backup maintenance every so often and when it does, it starts late Saturday and comes back on early Monday. The schedules are posted on MyGCC so please check the announcements.



GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Center for Student Involvement

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**PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

Initials: *[Signature]*

**TO:** Dr. Mary A.Y. Okada  
President

**VIA:** Dr. Michelle Santos *MS*  
Dean, School of Technology & Student Services

**VIA:** Esther Yanger *[Signature]*  
Associate Dean, School of Technology & Student Services

**FROM:** Bobbie Leon Guerrero *[Signature]*  
Program Specialist, Center for Student Involvement

**RE:** "Investing in Guam's Future with President Mary Okada" meetings  
(October 20 & 21, 2009)

**DATE:** November 19, 2009

***Hafa Adai President Okada!***

Attached, please find a summary of the questions from the "Investing in Guam's Future with President Mary Okada" meetings held on October 20 & 21, 2009. This semester, over the two day period, 218 students and faculty signed in and attended your meetings!

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

cc: Dr. Gina Tudela, Assistant Director, Office of Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness  
Mark Concepcion, Student Member, Board of Trustees  
Charlene Flores, President, COPSA

# **“Investing in Guam’s Future with Your President Mary Okada”**

October 20 & 21, 2009

President Okada was introduced and immediately began her presentation discussing projects whereby the college is investing in Guam’s future. She later addressed questions from students.

1. Military build-up is fast approaching
  - a. evidence that Guam is preparing, GCC enrollment up by 20% for the Fall semester
  - b. students are increasing their skills or here to get new skills
2. Career statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Statistics for fastest growing occupations
  - a. Medical Assisting – 8<sup>th</sup> fastest growing occupation in the nation
  - b. Computer and Video Technology
  - c. Forensics Science – GCC will offer this in Spring 2010
  - d. Skin Care specialists
  - e. Environmental Science Technicians
3. GCC helps you get your degree and grow
  - a. Financial Aid Office can help you get funds for school
  - b. Counselors can help you with your career choices
  - c. Student activities can help you expand your leadership skills
4. New programs for you
  - a. Forensic computer examiner
  - b. Forensic lab technician
  - c. Survey technology
5. An Associates Degree can help you earn more money – across the nation, you can earn more money than someone who just has a high school degree
6. Water problems – pumps are down and tanks can’t fill up
  - a. Parts have been purchased and we are working on fixing the pumps
  - b. GWA pressure is very low and even their tanks can’t fill up
  - c. We will also look into having port-a-potties until the problem is completely fixed
7. Parking is an issue now
  - a. Will become even more challenging once we break ground on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> for the new library.
  - b. Challenging again when we break ground for the Student Center later this year
  - c. Identifying additional temporary parking outside the gate and across from Victoria Mart.
8. New library
  - a. Ground breaking at 10am on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> for \$5million building
  - b. First LEAD certified building on campus – energy efficient
  - c. Partly funded from federal grant and stimulus money
9. Student Center
  - a. 100% design complete
  - b. Will break ground later this year
  - c. Waiting for grant funds before we break ground
10. Stimulus package funds – GCC submitted projects worth over \$9.5 million
  - a. Generator for building D
  - b. Paint booth for paint shop
  - c. Two parking lots
  - d. Two buildings
  - e. Software to increase capacity for new programs
  - f. Redundant network ring for backup for computers
11. Allied Heath building will be done and ribbon cutting will be in December
  - a. Once health classes and science classes are vacated and move to health building, we will renovate those vacated classrooms
  - b. We will install multi-media projectors, paint the walls, buy new chairs, fix the doors, etc.
12. 2012 Accreditation
  - a. Put a new coat of paint on all the buildings
  - b. More promotion and exposure for GCC – check GCC website

13. Student Representatives – talk to your student leaders. Get active.
  - a. Student Member on the Board of Trustees
  - b. Council On Postsecondary Student Affairs (COPSA) Officers
14. President Obama introduced the Graduation American Initiative providing \$10 billion to community colleges over the next couple of years. GCC has already requested funding for improvements and since we are the only community college here, we can get a lot of that money.
15. Graduation
  - a. Stay on track with your schooling and graduate
  - b. Make sure you ‘walk’ on graduation day – show your GCC pride
16. Outreach programs  
GCC is going out to the community to assist students who would like to get their adult high school diploma or GED. We will be in the village of Santa Rita on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> and then in Agat on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. We’re reaching out to the community to help our people build their skills and get ready for the build-up.
17. Registration starting already
  - a. Early Bird Registration is on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> here at GCC
  - b. Express Registration is on Jan. 5, 6 & 7 here at GCC and then on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> at GPO

### Questions asked October 20 & 21, 2009

1. **Since GCC has built the new Allied Health building, are there any plans to increase enrollment for nursing students?** The number of nursing students we can have is dependent on the number of faculty we have. We always assess our programs at GCC and if our assessment shows that we need more faculty for the nursing program, then that will drive how we develop our budget and move forward from there. In the spring semester, we will identify in all our occupational areas, not just the nursing program, which programs need more faculty for the next school year. If assessment warrants that we need more faculty and we are able to hire qualified faculty, then we might be able to increase our capacity.
2. **Are we going to rectify the bathroom problems, they’re pretty nasty and filthy?** We now have the funding to upgrade the bathrooms starting in the Foundation Building and then we’ll move on from there. **What about the regular cleaning of the bathrooms?** Last fiscal year we had some major funding issues and we had to cut back on the cleaning services. We have the funding this year and so the contractor will be cleaning areas more often. If there is an area or areas that are not being cleaned, please let us know right away.
3. **I have been going to GCC now for 3 years and a certain class is always getting cancelled. What can be done about this because I need it to graduate?** Work with counselors so that we can identify the class you need and help you to solve that problem so you can graduate. We have a counselor in the back of the room right now so if you want to connect with her and we’ll see how we can help you. **This class is in the automotive area.** Usually if we have students in a certain program who need a class and the class doesn’t make because of low enrollment, we can make accommodations for you but you have to let us know.
4. **You mentioned accreditation earlier, can you please explain what that means?** Accreditation means that a group of reviewers come from other institutions to assess if GCC is or is not meeting certain standards that are set forth by the Accreditation Commission. If GCC is not accredited, you will not receive a Pell Grant and we can’t offer financial aid. It requires that we have certain leadership, faculty with certain degree qualifications, curriculum, and student learning outcomes that are assessed. We have to document what works, what doesn’t work, and if it doesn’t work, how do we fix it. We have to meet quite a number of criteria in order to be accredited. This is especially important because if you are transferring to another institution, if we are not accredited, your credits will not transfer. Our accreditation is good until 2012.
5. **Why doesn’t GCC do distance education?** We do have some courses now, however, it requires a lot of the technology backbone. Distance education requires a lot of band-width so we need to stabilize and upgrade our system and infrastructure first. There are also a lot more requirements we have to meet in order to offer more distance education course, a lot of accountability issues such as verifying if the student sitting behind the computer is really the student taking the class.
6. **Why are religious people not eligible for financial aid?** I have never heard of this so I will have to check on this because financial aid is income based and it does not discriminate based on your religion, but I will check on this because there may be some other factor.

7. **I have classes that end at 9:30pm and I have a long walk to the back area of the parking lot, where is the security guard at this time?** In FY09 because our funds were reduced, we also had to reduce the security presence. We are now currently reviewing the cost factors to increase the presence back to where it was at before so you should be seeing a greater presence soon.
8. **In regards to distance learning, can we use a class room outside using the bases or just areas outside of the campus? Use DOE facilities or any other facility that might be more applicable to our curriculum?** We do have apprenticeship courses for GTA and their courses are taught offsite at GTA so we do have that type of arrangement. We do offer adult education and GED classes in some of the villages. If we are going to be offering classes offsite, we have to make sure we have access to all the basic instructional requirements for that class whether it be here or somewhere else. We are looking at using other areas but we need to make sure the facilities are adequate for our needs, that we have all the equipment and supplies we need, that we can secure it, and so all the same rules have to apply. There is nothing that restricts us from using other sites but we just need to make sure it meets our needs, set up and MOA, and determine the costs we will share.
9. **Are there plans to freeze tuition costs?** The tuition increase was frozen for this year, and because enrollment is up, we may do it again, but we will have to revisit that before the next fall year. Please work with your student representative Mr. Mark Concepcion to address that. He has the opportunity to bring that up so let your voice be heard through him.
10. **I've been going to school here for some time and I really like the way instructors work with the students, but why is there no bachelors or masters degree program here at GCC instead of me having to go to UOG?** GCC, based on our accreditation requirements, is not qualified to offer these degrees. There is a separate accreditation for higher degrees. Because we are so close to UOG, it is not really a feasible for us to compete with them in that regard. Thank you for recognizing that we have some of the best faculty members. We really do have to support the institution based on the capacity that we do have right now and if we start to offer higher or more advanced degrees in some areas, we may neglect other areas where we need to expand. Green technology is coming up so there's a lot more programs we need to introduce before we consider offering a bachelors or masters degree.
11. **I heard we're going to be having some problems with our parking, so maybe we could have staff park farther away so students can park closer?** I will have the PIO send out a notice to all staff and faculty.
12. **Why don't we offer horticulture classes here at GCC?** We used to have horticulture classes here before, when a lot of the golf courses were being built. We had it before but we need to see if there is an interest or need to bring it in again based on demand. Our courses are not deleted, they are just archived. **How then do we know if it can be brought up again?** We can put out feelers to see if certain classes generate interest.
13. **What about the idea of having parking garages that go up instead of out?** Based on stimulus money that we may get, we are looking at having parking over the ponding basin near the firing range and putting solar panels on the roof. We are also looking at the possibility of a two story parking lot by the forensic lab. However, we still have not done the A&E so that project is still about two years away.
14. **Can we make sure that we take care of the instructional areas first before we start building parking lots?** Yes. Our first priority is fixing the classrooms for instructional purposes. However, because we will be having so much construction going on, we will do need to address the parking issues and lay down some coral in certain areas.
15. **People smoke outside the GCC fence and there are lots of cigarette butts and trash on the street, can you do anything about that?** We are not responsible for this trash outside the fence but I will check with the mayor to see if there is anything that can be done.
16. **Can you put chairs outside the fence for students?** Before I address putting chairs outside the fence, I need to make sure there are enough benches and chairs for students here at the college. There are new benches on order for our students and they will all be placed inside the GCC fence for your use.
17. **Why is there no smoking on campus?** Because of student requests and the Natasha law, the college adopted a no smoking, no betel nut chewing policy. These were student driven requests and we responded to the students by implementing and adopting this policy.
18. **At UOG, you can bring your laptop and use their wireless access to go on-line. The computer labs here are usually full so we bring our laptops but we can't seem to get access to the wireless hot spots. Can you help?** We are trying to identify additional space for computer labs, maybe in the new Student Center or elsewhere. There are areas on campus for wireless access without a need for a code so we will work with our MIS department to identify where the wireless access points are and then post it on MyGCC.

19. **Can you look into upgrading or fixing the computer system? When I use the wireless access in Buildings A, B & C, it's always dropping me.** Let me also check into that and then please check MyGCC for updated information.
20. **Why did GCC implement a tuition freeze, but the cost of books went up?** The cost of books increasing has nothing to do with the tuition freeze that was implemented. It has to do with the vendor pricing and the cost of shipping. We are looking at getting vendors for purchasing e-books but we're still working on the security and copyright issues.
21. **What does the library fee cover if we have to pay a fee to get a copy of something, but at the lab, there's no fee?** When you pay for a copy of something at the library, you are basically paying for the upkeep of the machine.
22. **In reference to fees: Marine Biology and Environmental Biology students pay lab fees but we have to pay other fees when we go somewhere for our class fieldtrip. Why doesn't the lab fee cover that? Or does the lab fee just cover the classroom?** I will find out what the lab fee was supposed to cover and go back to the faculty to check and see if we can include the external fees into that so you don't have to incur extra costs.
23. **The courtyard needs more trees, benches, tables, and a gazebo, can you do anything about that?** We'll see what we can do. New benches are on the way and will be put out once they are received. There are tables in the Tech Center and the library that you can use right now for studying purposes.
24. **Will there be a new building just for the education department?** We currently working on the library and the student center right now because special funding became available. I don't have any funding for a new education building right now. We are also being requested to make certain buildings to have all the GW students take their classes all in one area. Our goal right now is to have all the classrooms upgraded. Eventually, some of the buildings here will become two story buildings as we continue our upgrades.
25. **There is trash everywhere and it stinks. Who is responsible for maintaining the trash cans?** We have janitorial services that we had to cut last fiscal year because the budget was short. Our funding is a bit more stable now so we are working towards increasing those services again.
26. **I have been waiting since May to get my certificate after I completed my program. Why is it taking so long to get my certificate?** It should not take that long, however, I will get your name and check on that.
27. **Will the new student center have a cafeteria?** The student center will have a student lounge for you to bring your food to eat but it will not have a restaurant. BCS Cafe is our food vendor for the campus at this time. If you are not happy with the food they provide let us know and we will make those changes. As far as adding additional facilities on campus, we don't have the space but we can look into a maybe a rolling canteen. Please let the vendor know if you are not happy.



GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*Kolehon Kumuniddat Guåhan*

Accredited by the  
Western Association of  
Schools and Colleges

*Center for Student Involvement*

*Learning Today ... Leading Tomorrow!*

**TO:** Dr. Mary A.Y. Okada  
President

**VIA:** Dr. Michelle Santos  
Dean, School of Technology & Student Services *MS*

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

**RE:** "Investing in Guam's Future with President Mary Okada" meetings  
(October 12 & 13, 2010)

**DATE:** October 28, 2010

**Guam Community College  
RECEIVED**

NOV 01 2010

**PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

**Initials:** *[Signature]*

***Hafa Adai President Okada!***

Attached, please find a summary of the questions from the "Investing in Guam's Future with President Mary Okada" meetings held on October 12 & 13, 2010. This semester, over the two day period, 133 students and faculty signed in and attended your meetings!

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

**cc:** Dr. Gina Tudela, Assistant Director, Office of Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness  
Paling April Cruz, Student Member, Board of Trustees  
James Mallicoat, President, COPSA

# **“Investing in Guam’s Future with Your President Mary Okada”**

October 12 & 13, 2010

President Okada was introduced and immediately stated that while she is the President and CEO of GCC, she is supported by a great team of faculty, administrators and staff that support the college in their various capacities.

Significant things happening at the Guam Community College:

1. **GROWING:** new programs, student enrollment, parking, physical plan capacity, (new buildings, classroom renovations).
2. **CHANGING:** sustainability of our programs and environment, accreditation review in March 2012.
3. **CHALLENGING:** growth in a short period of time, construction of buildings, shortage of finances to complete projects.

She later addressed questions from students and invited them to always let the GCC team know how they can support them with their educational journey. President Okada also reminded the students that they do have a voting Student Member on the GCC Board of Trustees as well as student government leaders, COPSA Officers, that they can speak with if they have concerns they want relayed to the administration.

## **Questions asked October 12 & 13, 2010**

1. **Can GCC & UOG have better collaboration for credits that will transfer over towards our 4 year degree?** The back of the GCC catalog shows what courses transfer to UOG. Over the years, we have been increasing the number of courses that transfer to UOG. College and university officials in this region meet and discuss accreditation, articulation and transfer issues. GCC is WASC accredited and that means a lot to the institution that is receiving the credits. However, it is really up to the receiving entity to accept credits from another institution.
2. **Will there ever be a time where we can sell our books back to the bookstore?** There are plans for a new bookstore on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Foundation building. But right now, there is no space to put additional books. Only when the new bookstore is completed, can we look into a book buy-back type program.
3. **With this new Student Center, what will be in this building?** A new nursing office, conference rooms, tutoring rooms, COPSA offices, and other department offices.
4. **Will you be willing to do letter of recommendations for students?** If you are a participating member of a student organization on campus, I will cite your attendance at the college and the position you held. I don’t cite character of students as I may not know who they are personally.
5. **Will the additional parking be a parking garage?** There is no parking garage in the master plan. All plans must link to something and involve supporting documents and data. We always engage our faculty, staff, administrators and students in our plans so that we build the plan together based on evidence. This then can become the overall support for the budget for a plan. I know that parking is an issue right now and we have identified additional parking outside the gate. If there is a need for more parking, we may look at utilizing the area on top of the ponding basin by building D.
6. **Will we be requesting funds for bigger projects here at the school because of the buildup and all the extra people coming?** I’m always asking for money. GCC has 300 acres of property elsewhere that we can use for new facilities, a solar farm, or an area for the heavy equipment program students to practice on, but we don’t know what we’re going to do with it yet. Because of a lot of the buildup involves construction, there is more federal money available for training.
7. **With the new Student Center, will there be a cafeteria?** The Student Center will not have a cafeteria.
8. **Are there any plans to bring in additional lighting within the courtyard?** Yes, the college received \$1.3M for solar projects. There will be solar panels in the LRC, Student Center, and parking lot lights. There’s another grant submission that will provide additional lighting for the college but it hasn’t been awarded yet.  
10/13 - New bid to include putting in 2 lights in the courtyard.
9. **Will there be a workout facility or gym in the plans?** The Student Center had a gym in the plans, but it may have to be modified due to funding and other programming.

10. **With the scholarships that are available, are we limited as to how many we can apply for?** No, you can apply for as many individual scholarships as you can. Turn in as many as you can qualify for.
11. **Batteries don't last as long on Guam as in other areas, with our solar projects, are we taking into consideration the battery problems?** GCC will be first Government of Guam agency to have solar panels. We know the technology changes for these things but we do have a warranty and maintenance component.
12. **We need more restrooms for the A&C buildings as there just aren't enough restrooms.** We will look into that.
13. **Can we put in snack vending machines?** We don't have them now because of our contract with the BCS Café, but the new café in the Bookstore may have something. In the meantime, ask BCS to bring in the snacks you like.
14. **I know this year we have an increase in the number of students. Some of us are from the outer islands and we're facing difficulties. I joined the CJ Academy and one of the courses requires me to get a firearm ID, but I can't get one because I'm not a U.S. citizen and that's discouraging.** I will check into that.
15. **Can there be bike racks on campus?** It was submitted in the 2011 request for funding and should be approved in a couple of months so it's just a matter of time.
16. **Can you please expand the automotive shop and classrooms?** We have a bunch of plans and will be updating our physical master plans on campus. Your instructors can now contribute to these plans which must link to our accreditation process. If you look at the current space, I don't know where we'll put it as we are very limited in that area. Plans should be updated by end of January so if you want to participate in some of the sessions, a schedule will be put out so you know when to attend. This is for all the programs not just automotive so if anyone else wants to participate for their program, please attend.
17. **Can you put in lockers in the automotive areas for our personal stuff?** I will look into that.
18. **We need a bigger computer labs.** Which one? **D-4 and D-5.** OK, I will look into that.
19. **What will it take to increase the number of automotive classes?** Ask the automotive department. If there is an increased need, we need to fit that into the plan. Because of increased enrollment, the campus is lit up all day with classes. We can even have Saturday classes. Faculty need to tell their Department Chairs who need to tell their Deans what they need. If we have the students to fill the classes, and there is a need, we will work towards that. There are even classes that are taking place off-campus. Remember, we are here because you are here and we will do our best to accommodate our students.
20. **We need a gym.** It is in the original design of the Student Center, but with other things happening, we may need to use it for other purposes.
21. **Can we advertise more for the scholarships?** Yes, we can. We are updating the website so that will be on there. Go to the GCC front page as we usually post it on there. Make it a point to look on the website often. **I go on the website a lot but not all students look at that. Maybe it can be posted even on the bulletin boards.** OK, we can take care of that.
22. **Can the attendance requirements for the classes be extended?** All classes have specific Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that can be achieved in a certain amount of time. If you miss too many classes, you will not be able to achieve the SLOs. If you miss half of your classes, there's no way you could have learned what you need to learn for that class. You're paying to take this class so make every effort to attend because catching up can be difficult. Do your best, make a commitment. Work with your instructors on this. It's an accreditation requirement for us that when you leave that class, you have obtained the SLOs identified with that class and we are providing the quality education that we stand for.
23. **Will you ever set up a dorm for GCC students?** A dorm is not a priority for GCC right now. By the time the dorm was completed, what is now the Administration Building, it was cheaper for students to rent an apartment across the street. We have an arrangement with UOG that you can stay in their dorm there if they have additional space.
24. **When can we get a new automotive shop?** The automotive shop is actually one of the better shops on island right now but I'll tell you that a new one is probably not in the plans for at least three years.
25. **Can we get more supplies for the automotive program?** It's harder to get money for buildings but instructional supplies are easier. I will look into that.
26. **When will they get a paint booth for the auto body shop?** It's coming soon.
27. **When will there be wi-fi around the whole campus? Where's it at now?** We will update signs so students will know where they're at. Dean Michelle Santos: there's also a wireless plan with the new Student Center to point out to the campus for greater access. President Okada: Wi-fi will be expanded come December 2011 when the Student Center is completed.