

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
(February 18 & 19, 2013)

DATE: March 4, 2013

Hafa Adai President Okada!

Attached, please find a summary of the "Investing in Guam's Future with President Mary Okada" meetings held on February 18 & 19, 2013. This semester, over the two day period, 272 students, staff and faculty signed in and attended your meetings!

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

cc: **Marlena Montague, Institutional Researcher, AIER**
Steven Alvarez, President, COPSA

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

February 18 & 19, 2013

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

The college’s Management Team and Administrators that were 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. **Current tone of the island**
There were a number of tragic events that have occurred on island over the past couple of weeks and some of these may have affected you personally. Please be advised that GCC has excellent counselors who can assist you with coping with these events. Always be safe on campus and be very aware of your surroundings.
2. **Student ID’s on campus**
You must wear them or have them in your possession while you are on campus. We have great facilities for you as students but we also have other people coming on campus to try and use our facilities. You are our priority and these services are strictly for our students.
3. **Enrollment**
Spring semester has over 2,400 students enrolled and our enrollment has been going up. Because of this, we are trying to grow our campus with new buildings and services.
4. **Campus Improvements**
Building 200 – should be awarded soon and hopefully, construction can start in the next couple of months. This will be a 2-story concrete building.
Building 100 – we now have the funding for the design renovations. No set date for construction but for all you cosmetology and CJ students, that building will be next. This will be a 2-story concrete building.
Forensic Lab extension – we will be building new classrooms and labs in this building for the criminal justice program use.
Automotive buildings – these are on the Master Plan to become 2-story buildings.
MPA – eventually, in the Master Plan, this will all be for the culinary use.
Improvements in air conditioning units, renovation of some restrooms, and other upgrades.
Buildings are financed from many funding sources: federal, local and private donors.
5. **Registration**
Register on-line and early – avoid the lines at financial aid, at admissions and at the cashier to pay.
6. **Sustainability**
Photovoltaic – we hope to get Buildings 100 & 200 fitted with photovoltaics so that we can save more money for the college by feeding electricity back into the grid which helps GCC save money each year.
COPSA and the EcoWarriors student organization have been very aggressive over the years with their recycling efforts on campus. Please recycle your aluminum cans and plastic bottles in our recycling bins.
7. **Scholarships**
GCC offers lots of scholarships, please apply. Sometimes we don’t get enough people to apply for these scholarships that private organizations give to us so please take advantage of them.

8. Miscellaneous

Financial issues – despite the challenges with GovGuam, GCC has no plans to raise tuition.

PDN news alerts – please sign up for this with your mobile phone so you can be alerted of any situations that may arise here at the college.

Parking issues – I know that parking is still an issue. A parking garage is in the Master Plan so if we can get funding for it, we can move forward with this. There is also an effort on our part to turn Sesame Street, which is GCC property, into a one-way street so that we can have more parking. We're working on that with the Department of Public Works to see how we can move forward.

Questions asked February 18 & 19, 2013

1. **I'm trying to pay my tuition in installments but I was told that there's no more installment payment. Is this true?** If you are registered for the class and are attending the class right now, then please see the Vice President of Finance, Ms. Carmen Santos at the end of this session and you can discuss this with her.
2. **Is there a maintenance problem on campus as there is no water in the Allied Health building?** Because of the water pressure in this area, we've built our own water tanks, however, sometimes there's not enough water in them to serve the campus. With that particular building, I know that there is a water pump issue. Maybe in the future, we can put up signs to advise you where other restrooms are available for your use.
3. **With all the tragic events that have been happening on our island, I want to point out that the area between the Allied Health building and LRC is extremely dark and I'm worried about going out there at night. When are they going to fix and turn on the lights in that area?** We are aware of that problem. There are some lights that are solar powered and we are aware that they are out and we're working on that. Let me work on some alternate solutions. We are also looking into federal funding for an emergency siren / mass notification system in the event that there is a situation on campus.
4. **Can we get a larger facility for the automotive section? Also, a couple of the machines are down and have been down for a while, how soon can they get fixed?** OK, I will look into those machines. In the facility Master Plan for automotive, the buildings will eventually be made into 2-story buildings.
5. **Can you expand the parking lot next to the automotive building?** OK, I will take a look into this.
6. **Can teachers have more office space so they're not so crammed into one space, maybe cubicles?** Some of them are just temporarily crammed because we've had to relocate people to start construction on building 200. Once everything is done, they should have their own cubicles.
7. **You know how we have Roasted, is it possible that we can have another food vendor?** Right now, I'm not sure where we could put them. Roasted and BCS Café are here for you. **Just wondering if we could have another choice.** At this time, we just don't have the space for additional food vendors.
8. **Can they fix the air cons in the Allied Health Building? I'm just dying in there.** We have seven new air con units coming in and they will be installed and take care of this problem.
9. **Why do book prices seem to go up every year?** Because the publishers raise the book prices. Text book rental is available for you for some books.
10. **Can we do a book trade-in and get a percentage back for our book?** I will check on that and see what options might be available. D. OKADA (Bookstore): we are looking into a book buy-back but we need to ensure that the book will be used the next semester and that the book does not have extensive markings.
11. **I enrolled in a class and then bought the books. When it came time to go to class, some of them were cancelled so I had to drop a class. I had to return a book and was charged 30% to return the book even though it was brand new and still wrapped. That is extremely excessive. I'd like to get your information afterwards because what I'm hearing is that we caused the disruption in your schedule.**
12. **Is there a uniform policy?** No, but you can buy GCC shirts from the bookstore. **How about a mascot?** We used to have the GCC Tradesman title but we don't use that anymore.
13. **What is the reason for the ID requirement to buy books?** C. SANTOS: some of our courses are also taught at UOG and if they run out of books there, we need to ensure that we have enough books for our students first. We also use your ID to check your course schedule to ensure that the books you are buying are the correct books for your classes. Additionally, if you're receiving financial aid from GCC, you wouldn't be able to buy a book without presenting your GCC ID.

14. **I noticed that the professors and staff are all wearing their IDs. Would we as students have to wear our IDs because of the safety concerns?** All GCC employees, faculty and staff, are required to wear their blue GCC IDs so that students will know who works here should they need assistance or if there is an incident on campus. Our staff and faculty have received training if there is a shooter on campus and we hope that one day we can provide that training for our students so that you know what to do in the case of any incident. Wear your ID so that we know that you are taking classes and need to be here on campus.
15. **Is there any way to put an electronic bar code on the IDs?** There is a system that has the bar codes and provides electronic access for computers, into the library and other areas, but it's a very expensive system with lots of requirements.
16. **Why is the MPA going to be used by culinary? We have many students in the culinary program and their kitchen is too small. What are going to do for an MPA?** Before I turn it into a kitchen, I will have a new MPA constructed.
17. **For prometric, there is only one testing appointment per educational system per month, if even that. There are a lot of us trying to get our certifications and there just aren't enough appointments, why can't there be more? In certain specialized classes like data and fiber cabling classes and even in the AC/DC electronics classes, why are we not given a certification test at the end of the class? For the data cabling class, I know it's an SLO, but it throws people off because when we read the syllabus, it says pass the national certification exam sponsored by the ETA. People will read that and think they get that exam in class. Just today, we had to jump through hoops just to get our exam. Our instructor had to speak to a number of people, we had to speak to Continuing Ed, who had to speak to the cashier just so we could pay for the exam. The certification exams should be inclusive of the class and we take it at the end of the class so we don't have to struggle just to find a testing center. GCC is a certified testing center so why don't we offer these tests right off the bat. So what you are saying is right now the course is one component and the testing and certification is separate. Yes. Your suggestion is to have those connected so that by the time you complete the course, the payment is all inclusive, so that when you sit through the test, everything has already been included. Yes. OK, got it. Thank you.**
18. **I have a concern about the GCC payment plan. Can the minimum payment be made less than \$500.00?** We can take a look at that but please remember that you can register early, months before classes start so start paying a little each month, you don't have to wait until the day before classes. Also, take advantage of financial aid and all the scholarships that we have available for you. **What can you do with this scholarship money?** You can use it to offset your tuition and books, or if your financial aid covers all your costs, then it will be cash in your pocket.
19. **Why don't we have a gym on campus?** There is one in the plans for the 2nd floor of Building 200. GCC does have physical activities and you are welcome to participate. If you want something different, see your Board of Trustees Student Member or your student organization leaders and let them know.
20. **In regards to President Obama's college scorecard, what do you believe to be some of his strong points and where do you think there can be some improvements?** There are several national initiatives that are out there and a federal push for people to enter into middle job skills. There is nothing wrong with a 4-year degree but having an industry certification in a specialized area is always going to get you a job. Our goal is to get the workforce trained, to ensure that you are employable. President Obama recognizes that community colleges are the way to achieve this because people can get industry certifications in a much shorter time and into the workforce much quicker. Many of the courses that are developed here at GCC go through a program review all the time because we have to update and identify what the industry standard is or what it is that industry is requiring from us when we educate our students.
21. **What is the student program completion rate for the various programs and how do you plan to increase the amount of students that are actually completing the programs?** Each program has a different completion rate. What is difficult here at GCC is that some people come to brush up on their skills, their goal is not to complete a certification. How do you measure that completion? Completion means different things to different people and how you interpret your numbers. GCC does have an institutional fact book posted on our website that gives you a lot of information and will also give you program completion rates.

22. **Can we have Friday and Saturday classes or more on-line courses, especially to ease parking?** We have 10-15 now. Our Deans will bring this up to the department chairs to further discuss this.
23. **Can we implement a dentistry program?** Not yet, but I will take note of it. Those are very expensive programs to implement.
24. **Are there plans to have an auditorium?** In the Master Plan in the future, the BCS Café will be removed and with a theater type structure facing the GCC courtyard.

