

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
(March 17 & 18, 2014)

DATE: March 20, 2014

Guam Community College
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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
Initials: *[Signature]*

Hafa Adai President Okada!

Attached, please find a summary of the "Growth and the Guam Community College with President Mary Okada" meetings held on March 17 & 18, 2014. This semester, over the two day period, 239 students, staff, administrators and faculty signed in and attended your meetings!

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

cc: Steven Alvarez, BOT Student Member
Marlena Montague, Assistant Director, AIER
Jennifer Esteves Collins, President, COPSA

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

March 17 & 18, 2014

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, Administrators, COPSA Officers and others present were introduced.

President Okada was then introduced, informed the students and faculty of the GCC activities and projects at the college, and then answered questions from the audience. She advised students that this is their time to voice their concerns and issues. She also advised students that they can always address their issues to the COPSA Officers who have brought many concerns to the administration’s attention and this helps to better plan how the college will move forward in some of the developments on campus.

1. Spring Enrollment - increased enrollment for Spring 2014 for a total of 2,498 students and this does not include the 160 soldiers that returned from Afghanistan and are attending GCC as part of the ‘Keep Your Guard Up’ initiative. With this increase in numbers, there’s also been an increase of services, programs, and facilities.
2. ‘Keep Your Guard Up’ initiative – a first of its kind program in the United States to assist returning deployed soldiers. GCC created this program to assist the over 600 soldiers that were returning from Afghanistan and help the 200 soldiers that would be underemployed or have no employment. GCC thought ‘outside the box’ to create this new program to serve our island community.
3. Clean Audits – as of March 7th, GCC received a clean audit once again and this makes 13 consecutive years. GCC is the only GovGuam agency that has earned this recognition.
4. Scholarships – take advantage of this free money. Many scholarships are available yet sometimes students don’t apply so we encourage you to apply. A new scholarship will be announced soon coming from the Guam Society of America out of Washington D.C. and it will have a May 26th deadline.
5. Registration – on March 24th, the schedules for Summer and Fall 2014 will be out and you can begin registering. Studies show that 60% of our students are now registering on-line. Don’t wait until the last minute and encounter the long lines. There will be no more late registration.
6. Construction – Building 200 will be done on Sept. 18th and this will also be a LEED certified building; the designs are done for the new 2-story Building 100 and the extension to the Guam Police Department Forensic Lab which will have a classroom and lab for GCC students. The bids are ready to go out once we receive final commitments for funding. The repayment source for the two buildings is coming from a 40-year term that the Guam Legislature has authorized for us.
7. Wellness and Maintenance facility – the design is set to be done before the end of September 2014 and will be located back by the firing range. The Maintenance Department will move to this facility and there will be a full court gym.
8. Multiple funding sources for buildings – capital projects fund from the GCC Board of Trustees, FEMA funding, long term USDA loans, federal grants, and local resources.
9. Sustainability – while building new facilities, we are also ensuring that they are sustainable. The Learning Resources Center is LEED Gold certified. The Foundation Building is LEED Silver certified and has a rain water catchment system, reused of old tiles, digital controls for the air conditioners, efficient lighting and photovoltaics on the rooftops. The Electronics Department has started to offer Intro to Renewable Energy, Photovoltaics I, and Photovoltaics II courses. GCC also has recycling bins for plastic and aluminum cans.
10. Parking – to alleviate the parking problem, we paved the area by the Foundation Building and we’ll pave the area located across from Victoria Mart by the end of spring break.
11. Institutional Strategic Master Plan – updated and available on the GCC website under Public Reports and lists the goals and initiatives through 2020.
12. PDN text alerts – sign up through MyGCC for the latest alerts regarding any emergencies at GCC.

Questions asked March 17 & 18, 2014

1. **What is the status of on-line courses here at GCC?** MO: Our last accreditation report requires that before we continue with any on-line courses or any distance ed courses, we have to complete a strategic plan. We need to know if the capacity of our IT department infrastructure can support our on-line courses. If it does, to what extent and when are we going to max out so we don't crash the whole system. Consultants were here about a month ago and we have the first draft of the report which our departments are now reviewing. We are also still gathering information to determine what courses can be done on-line or as a hybrid or 100% face to face. As soon as that report is done, it will tell us how fast we can offer courses and what funding infrastructure we can put in place in order for it to be sustainable. Updates will be provided once they are available. There is a survey on-line right now for students to answer. WES GIMA: We will also will have other student surveys going out later.
2. **Does the Master Plan still include a Fine Arts program?** MO: I will check but Fine Arts is not in the strategic plan.
3. **Is the college making any plans for a child care facility on or near campus for those of us who have children?** MO: In the 90's, GCC had a daycare but it was too costly. We are not looking at doing a daycare right now because of the cost and the limited land space. It might be better for GCC to partner with a daycare center in the area or if someone wants to set-up a daycare in the area that can be supported by GCC students.
4. **Is GCC planning to raise the tuition?** MO: There has been no discussion on raising the tuition and there is no need for us to raise it right now. When the tuition increase came up last time, the students actually supported the increase because they knew they wanted better facilities and more faculty. If I were to ask for the increase right now, I think students would be open to it because of all the improvements they've seen to date.
5. **When it rains, it leaks in the classrooms at the Allied Health Building?** MO: I'll have someone take a look at that as we've haven't heard of any leaks in the Allied Health Building.
6. **In Room 105, we can get 2 inches of water on the floor when it rains and it comes in from between the walls.** MO: Building 100 is expected to be taken down in Fall for renovation so we'll try to patch it up.
7. **Can we put more lights around campus and the air con in BCS needs fixing?** MO: We are working on temporary flood lights in strategic areas around the campus. We will look into the air con problem. If you look at the GCC Master Plan, BCS is no longer there because the intent is to have an open courtyard. We have to start putting a percentage of our construction costs into the arts and that will be focused on the courtyard.
8. **Does GCC plan to have a mascot?** MO: We plan to have one and line it up with 40th anniversary celebration including a redesign with our logo.
9. **Are you planning to update the automotive shops?** MO: Yes, in the Master Plan those buildings will be upgraded to 2-story buildings. **Can you fix the lights in the classrooms?** MO: OK, we will take a look at that. **And the roof leaks too.**
10. **Is there any way to put awnings between the Allied Health, LRC and Student Center buildings?** MO: There are awnings in the Master Plan, as far as something temporary, we can look at that.
11. **Is there any way for the college to put an awning at the Student Center for the handicapped ramp? When my friend in the wheelchair goes from the Student Lounge to his classes, he has to go out in the rain because the ramp is not covered.** MO: We will take a look at that.
12. **Are there any plans for a mess hall or a cafeteria?** MO: It may be in the new multi-purpose facility in the cliff line. It is set to be a big facility but we're not done with those plans yet.
13. **Is GCC planning to offer more science courses that articulate to UOG?** MO: We're not working on any right now be we can look into it.
14. **What's the process for getting more funds?** MO: Federal grants and local funding that we can apply for; donations; and the tuition component. We apply for funds that will make sense to the overall strategic plan for the college. We also watch for funding sources from Congress.
15. **Are there plans to reopen the study hall?** MO: We do plan to re-open the study hall again. DORIS PEREZ: The equipment is here and we will be ready to open sometime soon.
16. **Can you fix the road coming from Ladera Tower?** MO: Because those roads belong to the Government of Guam, we would have to work with the Mayor's office and DPW on this. The only road we own is the road right in front of the campus.

17. **Is there designated or separate parking for students and employees?** MO: No, there are only handicapped designated parking slots and slots for scooters.
18. **Why can't we update our student information on-line? Why can't we re-register on-line for a class we've already taken?** FRANK CAMACHO: from the IT side, only certain updates are allowed depending on how the Registrar sets up the system. MO: I will take your information, find out for you and provide you with an email response. GINA TUDELA: For the class you've already taken, if it's a developmental class, it is tied to Financial Aid as you only have so many times you can take the class so you may just need assistance from your advisor.
19. **Can you build a multi-level parking garage like the mall?** MO: It is in our Master Plan I just don't have the funding to build it yet.
20. **If we finish all our requirements in fall, is there any way to have a commencement ceremony in fall instead of having to wait till spring to get our diplomas?** MO: If the numbers are there and institutionally we can support a fall commencement, it could be possible. For spring semester, we get about 250-300 students that walk. GINA TUDELA: If you finish your requirements for your certificate or degree program in fall, you can submit your application for graduation, and you can get your diploma in the fall. JOANNE IGE: Per the Registrar at our last graduation committee meeting, only about 15 people actually apply for graduation in the fall so there are not enough students for a fall ceremony.
21. **For the printer in the Student Center Computer Lab, sometimes you have to press the button really hard for it to work, can you have someone look at that? And, is there a possibility that we can get scanners in the computer labs for use by students?** MO: We did receive this request regarding scanners. FRANK CAMACHO: We are waiting for feedback on the type of scanners that are wanted and where they will be located. For the printers, we have wait for our contractor Xerox as we cannot touch them due to the warranties. When this happens, we do set-up back-up printers. CARMEN SANTOS: We recently went out to bid and will soon have new printers in the open labs. MO: Will they have scanner features? FRANK CAMACHO: The printers in the open labs will be separate from the scanner units. This way no one has to wait to scan documents while someone else is printing. MO: Your request has been heard and we are taking the necessary steps to have scanners available in the open labs. FRANK CAMACHO: I just received an update from my staff on duty now, the printer button problem has been fixed and the back-up printer is up.
22. **Are the scholarships and all the criteria listed on-line?** MO: Yes, go to the Financial Aid site as each scholarship opportunity has different requirements.
23. **Can we have traditional huts on campus for students to hang out outside?** MO: Many years ago, we used to have competitions where student organizations would build huts. But one year, it got extremely hot and the huts became a fire hazard so we stopped doing it.
24. **Can you have a sign language interpreting program set up here?** MO: We do have sign language courses on campus right now. We are also working with the courts to have other language interpreter courses.
25. **Some of the first responder courses are only offered at certain times during the summer as part of the cycle or during spring? Is there any way they can also offer some of these courses in the fall?** MO: Before the class schedule is developed now, the departments are required to survey their students as to what courses are needed to complete their program or what courses they are interested in. A lot of the surveys associated with that are happening now so please bring it up to your faculty members so they can advise their Department Chairs and they can build it into the schedules. We want to offer the courses that you need at the time you need them. We are here for you.
26. **I am very grateful for classes that you offer after work. As a mother and a working parent, I'm taking advantage of these classes and I hope you continue.** MO: Thank you.
27. **What language courses are you considering to add?** MO: We currently offer Japanese and Chamorro. If there is an interest, we could potentially offer Chinese and Russian because that seems to be where tourism is heading. Based on the request and demand from the community, we will determine what classes we can offer maybe not on a continuous basis, but through Continuing Education just so long as we have the number of students to support it.
28. **In the Automotive shop, the alignment machine needs some repair or replacement.** MO: We'll take note of that.