

GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION
Board of Governors Meeting of May 30, 2025
10:30 a.m. via Zoom

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER. The GCC Foundation Board of Governors meeting of May 30, 2025, was called to order at 11:24 a.m., by Ms. Lorraine Okada, Chairperson via Zoom.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Ms. Lorraine S. Okada, Chairperson; Ms. Josephine L. Mariano, Treasurer; Ms. Annmarie Muna; Mr. Eloy Lizama; Ms. Carline Bukikosa; Mr. Eduardo Ilao; Dr. Mary A.Y. Okada, President.

Schedule Conflict: Mr. Gerard Cruz, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Narlin Manalo (off-island); Mr. Carlo M. Leon Guerrero, GCC BOT Chairman.

Others in attendance: Ms. Clarissa Padua, Vice President, Finance & Administration; Mr. John Dela Rosa, PIO.

2. Recital of Mission Statement. Board members recited the Mission Statement: Guam Community College is a leader in career and technical workforce development, providing the highest quality, student-centered education and job training for Micronesia.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Meeting of January 24, 2025.

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. JOSEPHINE MARIANO, AND SECONDED BY MS. ANNMARIE MUNA THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2025, WITH CORRECTIONS. NONE OPPOSED, MOTION CARRIED. (Voting: 6 ayes, 0 nays)

III. COMMUNICATIONS. A communication received from APAFS indicating to save the date for the 23rd Pacific Region Investment Conference, November 20-21, 2025 in Manila and a reminder of the early bird registration. There are pre-conference trainings before the actual conference and it was recommended for the Board to notify the recording secretary in advance in order to avail of the discounted rate.

By booking in advance, Board members can take advantage of lower rates. The College's standard process only allows booking a month before the event, which would result in higher prices. Board members who book early will be reimbursed but should inform Dr. Okada or the recording secretary of their decision.

Chairwoman Lorraine Okada encouraged Board members to attend this conference especially with the current market uncertainties in the region, this conference provides an excellent opportunity to

stay informed.

IV. REPORTS

1. President's Report.

Capital Improvement Projects and other activities:

The President reported the following:

In reference to loss of federal funding, a small contract with USAID was terminated for convenience. The contract was less than \$25,000, and the College was paid \$8,000 for work done prior to termination. The planned conference was canceled, but the College did not lose any money from this contract termination. The second contract was a sub-grant from the University of Hawaii in Hilo, funded by the National Science Foundation. The grant allowed the College to bill and submit invoices up to the date of termination, ensuring that no money was lost from this grant.

Dr. Okada further reported that it was expecting \$1.4 million in FEMA BRIC funding for Building 600 but after two years of waiting and setting up accounts, the funding was suddenly pulled back before any money was drawn. While the College did not lose money because it was never received, it missed out on this funding for construction.

There is \$500 million funding opportunity under GHURA. The College plans to apply for this and will be competing with other applicants for similar activities as when it applied for the BRIC program. Another potential funding opportunity is through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). The College can still apply for other FEMA grants and will continue exploring various funding sources to support its projects.

There were 329 students that graduated this academic year, slightly fewer than last year. Enrollment is currently ongoing for summer and fall semesters, and the College is closely monitoring student registration numbers; Dr. Okada reported that she receives daily updates from Washington DC about potential changes to Pell Grants. If the requirements are significantly altered, many colleges and universities across the United States could face severe financial challenges, with some potentially closing due to their reliance on Pell Grant funding.

In the current budget proposal, full-time students are defined as those taking 12 credits. The proposal is to increase full-time student status from 12 to 15 credits to receive full Pell Grant funding. The College will need to monitor how many students can handle 15 credits, as many students currently struggle with 12 credits. Currently, part-time students are defined as those taking six credits. The proposal may increase this to eight credits, which would mean working students would need to take three classes to be eligible for partial Pell Grant funding. The College is closely monitoring these potential changes and track how Pell Grant eligibility might be affected.

Dr. Okada further reported that a positive development is that Pell Grants are now eligible for incarcerated individuals. The College recently hosted a workshop with representatives from the College Board and a prison education program organization to explore how incarcerated students who qualify can receive Pell Grant awards.

The College is collaborating with the Department of Corrections, College Board, and the Vera Institute in Washington DC to explore Pell Grant opportunities for incarcerated students. The workshop included participants from neighboring islands. CNMI, College of Micronesia-FSM, and Palau are also exploring this educational opportunity. The College currently offers adult education and GED programs in correctional facilities, which are federally funded and do not require funding for tuition. This initiative represents a potential strategy for increasing student enrollment in a new setting.

The College presented its fiscal year 2026 budget to the Guam Legislature and was the first on the agenda. It requested an increase of almost \$1 million, primarily to cover rising health insurance costs and the government's share of retirement contributions. The health insurance premiums have increased and the government has chosen to absorb the additional cost without charging employees extra premiums.

The College receives an adult education grant of about \$600,000 annually, which is currently not at risk. If the grant is reduced or eliminated, the College will still be mandated to provide adult education and GED services. They plan to use existing vacancies to absorb staff, though limited-term employees cannot be guaranteed continued employment. This is the only large grant that the College is worried about.

The College has a YouthBuild grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, which is currently stable. It's a \$1.6 million grant over four years, with 75% funded by the grant and 25% locally. Currently, the grant is in its first year and still in motion plus it supports three employees. The College would need to absorb these positions if the grant were to be cut.

In terms of local funds, the College has been receiving regular appropriations. However, the Manpower Development Fund (MDF) has been struggling with collections. There is a misconception that the MDF is flushed with money as the College did not receive its full appropriation from the MDF last year.

2. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP).

The President reported that there will be three (3) buildings that are expected to be completed soon. The Culinary Arts & Baking Center (Building 400) is 93% complete, with some work being done with the installation of the gas lines, fire alarm systems and other items. The equipment is already on island and the completion date may have been extended but is in the final stages of completion.

The emergency generator has been tested and is 99% complete. There are some electrical wiring issues that the contractor needed to resolve. This project was funded by ARP and some local funds. The College successfully retained all ARP funds by quickly justifying how the project related to COVID-19. The College responded to the funding agency's request within 24 hours and secured the funding the following week. All ARP funds were fully expended.

The solar parking lot project is funded with \$2 million from the Department of Interior and will be located in front of the administration building with solar panels creating a PV system for Building D. The College has obtained all necessary clearances from federal and local agencies referred to as environmental requirements. This will be the College's first project with battery storage aimed at

generating energy savings. The Section 106 documentation has been submitted to the Department of Interior and the College is awaiting the notice to proceed.

The campus-wide painting project is an exciting development for the College with the campus looking beautiful. Most of the cleaning was funded by the insurance claim for Typhoon Mawar. Initially, the insurance paid \$200,000, and following up, the College received a final release of \$700,000. Most of the campus cleaning costs were covered by the insurance claim, which the College is pleased.

The College has a new air conditioning replacement project worth nearly half a million dollars. The project has recently started and will involve replacing 19 units; Building 300, which is the Multipurpose Auditorium (MPA), is awaiting completion of its digital control component and LEED certification. There is a minor repair to the canopy resulting from Typhoon Mawar. Although the building has been in use, they are waiting for the final closeout of the project; the GCC portion of the Forensic DNA building has been completed and has been in use for almost a year. The GPD side was delayed due to snorkel equipment, but the College procured the equipment and are at 40% of equipment installation and should be done in a couple of months; the College recently met with USDA regarding the Wellness Center. USDA's primary concerns are GCC's revenue and potential loss of federal funds. The College is awaiting feedback from the meeting. The USDA team has mostly changed, with the local office now reporting through the California office instead of Hawaii. The College is awaiting comments from the initial review to determine the status of the request. The USDA anticipates the application submitted to be approved by September 2025; Building B at the front of the campus is 96% complete and expected to be finished in about a month. The remaining work includes building signage, booster pump, HVAC system, and fire alarm installation; the Workforce Development Center in Barrigada the third project scheduled to be done by July 2025, and is currently at 81% complete; and Building 600 is currently under design with TRMA and this project is ongoing.

GCC is undergoing a public health inspection like other educational institutions. The College will complete the process and obtain a sanitary permit before the fall academic year starts, as required to operate. Employees have painted and cleaned offices, and thousands of pounds of accumulated electronic equipment were disposed. A lot of money, time, and effort have been spent preparing for the Guam Public Health inspection and the College is working through some of the issues with their requirements such as covered trash cans in the classrooms, including the College requesting with some variances due to the College being unable to make changes to a building still under warranty. The College has already spent a half a million dollars to be in compliant with the Guam Public Health inspection.

3. Investment Reports & Updates.

An update on the GCC Foundation Investment Report was previously provided on May 30, 2025, before today's meeting by Ms. Amanda Gima from the office of Raymond James with the reporting period as of April 30, 2025. She also presented a detailed analysis comparing the ESG and non-ESG portfolios, showing they perform very similarly. There was a discussion regarding the potential impact of the current administration's policies especially with tariffs. The Board agreed to hold and continue monitoring the ESG portfolio.

There was a discussion regarding scheduling a joint meeting with the Board of Trustees to review funding requirements and potential withdrawal needs. These funding would be for capital improvements and scholarships. Dr. Okada suggests that the next significant withdrawal from the investment account is anticipated in 2026, potentially in the fourth quarter or first quarter of the following year into 2028 for a construction project.

Ms. Gima will schedule a meeting with Garcia Hamilton and Pacific Income to discuss their investment strategies with the Board. Other than the \$82,000 required for a nursing scholarship, there is currently no other request to move any other funding support for the College at this time.

4. **Giftgiving Campaign Sub-Committee Reports.**

Capital & Major Giving.

Annual Giving and Events.

Planned Giving.

Scholarships & Endowments.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS.** *None at this time.*

VI. **NEW BUSINESS.**

1. **FBOG Election, Secretary Board member vacancy.** The Chair explained there is a vacancy on the Board for both the Secretary position and a board member position due to the passing of Mr. James Martinez. Board member Narlin Manalo was nominated as Secretary on the Board. The following motion was then made:

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CARLINE BUKIKOSA, AND SECONDED BY MR. ELOY LIZAMA, THAT THE BOARD NOMINATE NARLIN MANALO AS THE SECRETARY ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS. NONE OPPOSED, MOTION CARRIED. (VOTING: 6 ayes, 0 nays)

The Chair also requested each board member to submit nominations for the vacant board position via email before the next quarter's meeting in anticipation of having this position filled by then.

2. **Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) Scholarship.** The Foundation Board of Governors Resolution GCCF 01-2025, "Funding For The Establishment Of An Associate Degree In Nursing (ADN) Scholarship Program At Guam Community College," was submitted for the record as a formality. The funding for the scholarship program had already been approved electronically, and the resolution ratifies the transaction for the first cohort.

3. **FBOG/BOT Joint Board meeting.** The Chair explained that a joint board meeting with the Board of Trustees will be scheduled to address anticipated reductions and noted that this is in preparation for 2027. The Recording Secretary will schedule the meeting.

VII. NEXT MEETING. The next quarterly Foundation Board meeting will be scheduled for August or early September 2025, as the College's budget will have been approved by then, however, this date is subject to change.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS. None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CARLINE BUKIKOSA, AND SECONDED BY MS. ANNMARIE MUNA, THAT THE BOARD ADJOURN THE MEETING OF MAY 30, 2025. NONE OPPOSED, MOTION CARRIED. (Voting: 6 ayes, 0 nays)

There being no further discussion, the meeting of May 30, 2025, was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Submitted by:

 OCT 14 2025

BERTHA M. GUERRERO
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

 OCT 14 2025

LORRAINE S. OKADA
Chairperson