GCC TRUSTEES
GUAMCOMMUNITYCOLLEGE

GCC# 34-18-1597

February 26, 2018

Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz

MAR 0 1 2018
Time: 4:44 [ ] AM [ ] PM File No. 34-1600
Received By:

Honorable Senators of the 34th Guam Legislature
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Re: Request for access to the cash of GovGuam autonomous agencies

Hafa Adai Senators,

With regard to the recent legislative request that all autonomous agencies of the government of Guam identify the amount of cash currently available in their accounts, the Board of Trustees and the management of Guam Community College thank you for excluding GCC from this request. Next week GCC will be visited by a team from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The College is seeking reaffirmation of its accreditation for a full seven years. This status would be impossible to attain with outside interference in our financial affairs. As chairman of the Board of Trustees, I respectfully point to number seven (#7) of the ACCJC eligibility requirements for accreditation, which states:

> *"**The institution has a functioning governing board responsible for the academic quality, institutional integrity, and financial stability of the institution and for ensuring that the institution's mission is achieved. This board is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the financial resources of the institution are used to provide a sound educational program.** Its membership is sufficient in size and composition to fulfill all board responsibilities."*

2018 MAR -2 AM 10:36

I also point to Accreditation Standard IV: Leadership and Governance; specifically, Standards IV C.1 and C.4:

C.1 *The institution has a governing board that has authority over and responsibility for policies to assure the academic quality, integrity, and effectiveness of the student learning programs and services* ***and the financial stability of the institution.***

C.4 *The governing board is an independent, policy-making body that reflects the public interest in the institution's educational quality. It advocates for and defends the institution* ***and protects it from undue influence or political pressure.***

1597

Some of you may recall that back in June 1994, GCC was placed on probation due to "concerns of the apparent clack of Trustee control, a situation created by Public Law 21-59." This interference related to issues of appointment and assignment of administrative and academic staff. GCC was removed from probation in August 1994 after appropriate governmental legislation returned authority to the governing board.

A proposal to require GCC open its accounts to help the government of Guam out of its current financial crisis would be exactly the type of interference that could again threaten GCC's reaffirmation of accreditation. If GCC were to lose its accreditation, or if the College were to be put on probation, that status would negatively affect the over 60 percent of our students who rely on federal Pell grants to attend college, and it would negatively affect GCC's ability to secure all other federal grants as well. Negative accreditation marks would also prevent students from being able to transfer hard-earned GCC academic credits to a four-year higher education institution.

Senators, I speak for every member of the GCC Board of Trustees in telling you that we serve with a single-minded purpose: To ensure that the College can successfully carry out its mission as a leader in career and technical workforce development, providing the highest quality, student-centered education and job training for Micronesia. Si Yu'os Ma'ase for not jeopardizing GCC's status on the eve of our accreditation visit by asking us to violate our accreditation standards.

Sincerely,

Frank P. Arriola
Chairman
Guam Community College Board of Trustees