



OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PROMOTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## GCC Board approves faculty union contract

Members of the Guam Community College Board of Trustees today voted unanimously to approve the agreement as negotiated between the GCC Faculty Union Local 6476 AFT/AFLCIO and the Board. The Faculty Union voted to ratify the contract on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Today's unanimous vote of board approval was followed by applause from everyone in attendance at the meeting, which took place in the President's Conference Room on the GCC campus.

"This process took nearly seven months and over 200 hours of negotiation," noted Fred Tupaz, GCC assistant professor and Faculty Union president. "It was an interest-based bargaining process during which the needs of students were considered first and foremost, while providing for a high quality of work life for faculty in carrying out our mission at GCC," he said.

Tupaz thanked his faculty negotiators and the rest of the negotiating team for its collegiality, professionalism, and commitment to arriving at an agreement that "emphasizes our student successes."

Frank Arriola, BOT chair, congratulated the negotiating team for its hard work, including BOT member Deborah Belanger, who represented the Board during the negotiating process.

"Everyone involved in this process worked very hard to produce a contract that was mutually beneficial to all parties involved, and that stayed true to the GCC mission to be student-centered," Arriola said. "The Board is very proud of this effort, and thanks everyone who sat at the negotiating table."

Dr. Ray Somera, Vice President for Academic Affairs at GCC, was the BOT chief negotiator for the process.

"This new agreement took an Interest-Based Bargaining (IBB) approach, with emphasis on student success and mission excellence. It is more flexible, more focused on core duties and responsibilities, and in line with our institutional goals and emphasis on student success and achievement," noted Dr. Somera.

The GCC-Faculty Union contract covers academic years 2017-2018 through 2022-2023 at the College.

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