



**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDAT GUÅHAN**

Board of Regents

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**Regular Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2025**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the University of Guam Board of Regents (BOR) was called to order by Regent Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero, Chairperson of the Board, who presided over the meeting. The meeting was held on Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 5:33 p.m, RFK Library, Silent Room, and via Zoom.

The Chair welcomed all attendees and noted that the meeting was being conducted in compliance with Guam's Open Government Law. The meeting was open to the public and live-streamed on UOG's YouTube channel (@youtube.com/uogtritons). The agenda for the meeting had been properly posted in accordance with the law.

The Chairperson reminded attendees to maintain decorum throughout the proceedings, to be respectful in their comments, and to refrain from causing disruptions. In the event of disruptions, individuals could be asked to leave. These guidelines applied to both in-person and virtual participants. Online participants were asked to keep their microphones muted unless called upon to speak.

It was also noted that the meeting was being both recorded and live-streamed. By attending in person or virtually, participants consented to being recorded, including any remarks made during the open presentation.

QUORUM:

**Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero
Agapito "Pete" A. Diaz
Mike W. Naholowaa
Janice P. Malilay
Joanna T. Chun
Christopher L.C. Duenas
Edward F. Ulloa
Julie A.L. Laxamana**

**Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Treasurer
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member**

ALSO PRESENT:

**Anita Borja Enriquez
Anthony Camacho
Kalyne Roberto
Christine Mabayag**

**President/Executive Secretary
General Counsel
BOR Liaison Officer
Recording Secretary**

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2.0 MEETING MINUTES

2.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2025

Chairperson Leon Guerrero asked if there were any corrections or discussion regarding the regular meeting minutes as presented. Regent Diaz moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Naholowaa. The motion carried.

3.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Chairperson Leon Guerrero expressed her sincere gratitude for the privilege of serving as a Regent for the past six years. She accepted the nomination with the desire to give back to the institution that shaped much of her professional career.

She reflected that while she initially thought her role would be primarily to govern and guide, it has also been an opportunity to learn and grow, much like her time as a student. She is grateful for the opportunity to serve and to learn from her fellow Regents, whose experiences broadened her perspectives; from administrators, faculty, and staff, whose institutional and regional knowledge strengthened her understanding; and from student leaders such as Regent Laxamana, SGA President Nicole, and Vice President Keana, whose leadership and advocacy inspired her, the Board, and the community.

She thanked all members of the Triton community for their partnership, commitment, and motivation, which contribute daily to UOG's strength and resilience. She highlighted accomplishments since the last meeting, including the passage of Bill 58-38, which secured critical resources for UOG's future, with thanks to the Guam Legislature, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, and the students, alumni, faculty, and staff whose advocacy was vital.

She also noted UOG's attainment of the Carnegie Research College classification, joining 216 U.S. institutions and elevating the University's national profile. She highlighted the successful hosting of the 16th Conference on Island Sustainability, which received positive feedback, and the Isla Center for the Arts held their undergraduate exhibit, showcasing 128 works from students highlighting their incredible talent and creativity.

She also recognized the opening of UOG's Chalan Deskubre Hub, an interactive STEM learning center, and the relaunch of the Triton Privileges Program in March, now with over 60 local businesses, 81 partner vendors, and 1,409 verified Triton members.

She congratulated FMS staff Francis Bautista, Bertha Meno, and Gus Meno for completing their electrical journeyman certification through the GCA Trades Academy, which is a demonstration of how our employees continue to invest their time and their efforts into personal and professional development.

She also recognized nursing student Grace Ann Dela Cruz, who was named the 2025 Truman Scholar, following in Regent Laxamana's footsteps.

She further reported that twelve UOG students presented research at the Joint Mathematics Meeting, the largest gathering of mathematicians in the world. The University also celebrated

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its 57th Charter Day, hosted the CLASS Research Conference, and opened a new geography lab.

Chairperson Leon Guerrero emphasized that beyond these milestones, UOG's true strength lies in its people, faculty, staff, students, and alumni, who form a lifelong Triton network. She cited the recent testimony before the Legislature as an example of this network's commitment to UOG.

She then thanked Regent Laxamana for her service on the Board, recognizing that her leadership and advocacy left a lasting impression. She invited Regent Laxamana to say a few words.

Regent Laxamana thanked the Chairperson and shared that this was her last meeting as Student Regent. She reflected on her growth during her term, noting that she began as an introverted student who did not initially see herself as a leader. With the encouragement of her mentor, she embraced the opportunity to serve, collaborate with student leaders, and learn from the Board. She expressed her gratitude for the privilege and honor of serving in this role.

She also acknowledged the Student Government Association officers, past and present, for their advocacy and leadership. She encouraged future student leaders and the incoming Student Regent to carry forward the same energy, motivation, and open-mindedness, emphasizing that the student voice is vital in shaping the University's future. She concluded by thanking the Board for their support.

Chairperson Leon Guerrero then reflected on her six years of service, she stated that the UOG of 2025 has grown far beyond the institution when she joined as Regent. This growth is evident in the near completion of four new campus buildings, the accreditation of the School of Engineering, the establishment of UOG's first doctoral program in education, and the hundreds of millions of dollars in research under management.

She added that the future of UOG is secure under the stewardship of the Board, the leadership of President Enriquez, and the dedication of the Triton community, and expressed confidence that UOG will continue to fulfill its mission of serving Guam and the region.

She concluded her remarks by inviting President Enriquez to present her report.

4.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Enriquez began her report by expressing her gratitude to Chairwoman Leon Guerrero for her advocacy, leadership, and thoughtful recommendations, and extended special appreciation to Student Regent Julie Laxamana for her active participation and consistent presence at university events. She noted that Regent Laxamana will be deeply missed on the board, but expressed excitement for her future contributions as a proud UOG alumna.

She also recognized Senior Vice President and Provost Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba, RCUOG Interim Director Michael Conner, Interim Vice Provost Dr. Pam Peralta, and Vice President for Finance and Administration Randy Wiegand for their attentive work in monitoring federal grants and providing timely updates.

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She provided an update on the status of UOG's federal grant portfolio, reporting a total of 136 active grants valued at approximately \$98.2 million. Four grants, worth \$5.7 million, have been directly affected by recent federal decisions, while 17 grants valued at \$42.8 million are under close monitoring. The remaining 115 grants, totaling \$49.7 million, have not experienced any changes. Importantly, there have been no furloughs of employees; however, nine employees have been reassigned to other funding sources, and 27 full-time equivalents and 29 part-time employees are being closely monitored. Grants with no changes continue to support 42 full-time and 85 part-time positions. An estimated 40 student internships are anticipated to be impacted by federal funding adjustments. President Enriquez emphasized that the university is working closely with Congressman James Moylan and his staff to stay informed on federal updates.

She acknowledged Dr. Austin Shelton for his leadership in advancing UOG's research initiatives. She added that we continue to closely monitor the NSF EPSCoR funding, which represents several millions of dollars in support, and that we have already been notified that CEDDERS, will experience cuts to its grant awards. She further added that we also learned of reductions to AmeriCorps funding, and are monitoring these developments carefully and remain focused on ensuring that our employees are supported throughout this process.

Turning to the Tulos Mo'na strategic plan, President Enriquez highlighted key progress under each of the four pillars.

Under Pillar 1, ensuring that every student receives a guided voyage to their destination. President Enriquez reported the launch of UOG's year-long online course schedule designed to improve persistence to graduation. She congratulated the Enrollment Management and Student Success team, led by Dean Gena Rojas, along with others in her division and across the university, for their hard work in bringing this initiative forward. She also highlighted the continuation and expansion of the Triton Summer Academy, which brings in over 100 recent high school graduates each year and helps prepare them for a successful transition into their first semester. Additionally, she recognized the development of athletic scholarships spearheaded by Doug Palmer to support scholar-athletes. President Enriquez noted the inaugural Miss UOG pageant organized by the Student Government Association, congratulating winner Ashley Topasna, who has committed to supporting college advocacy. She also announced the EMPWR Expo scheduled for the following day, which will connect graduating students, alumni, and community members with prospective employers.

Under Pillar 2, establishing UOG as a trusted source for quality programs, research, service, and extension, the President celebrated the university's recent Carnegie research classification as an important marker of UOG's growing research presence. She commended faculty, administrators, and students for their contributions to the university's research agenda, highlighting the success of the Annual Conference on Island Sustainability organized by Dr. Austin Shelton, which brought together global and regional leaders including Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, and Lieutenant Governor Tenorio. She also highlighted faculty research publications in national journals and the outreach work of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, particularly through community workshops such as backyard egg production and other agricultural training programs.

Under Pillar 3, enriching the employee experience through Inadâhi yan Inagofli'e, she recognized the achievement of UOG's FMS staff in earning journeyman certifications, underscoring the importance of ongoing training and professional development. She also

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highlighted the launch of the Triton Privileges Program, designed to enhance employee well-being through benefits and discounts provided by local sponsors and vendors.

Under Pillar 4, optimizing financial health and growth, President Enriquez reported on the university's successful Golf Driving Range Challenge at the Country Club of the Pacific, which raised more than \$20,000 in net proceeds for student scholarships. She acknowledged the efforts of co-chairs Mark Mendiola, Carlos Taitano, Noel Enriquez, and Melanie Mendiola, as well as the support of board members, faculty, staff, and administrators who contributed to the success of the event.

She also recognized the important work of Ms. Tes Reyes-Burrier, who has been instrumental in strengthening alumni and donor engagement. Ms. Reyes-Burrier has updated UOG's social media presence through the Triton Alumni Connection on Instagram and Facebook and developed flyers for the alumni donor walls, with pledges earmarked for deferred and preventative building maintenance. The donor walls feature themes such as "Navigating Our Canoes" and "Building a Prosperous Future through Our Grove of Lemai Trees," with three levels of giving established to encourage participation. These efforts are part of a broader advancement strategy that also includes building naming opportunities supported by the School of Engineering Advisory Council, with commitments already secured from SSFM International, the Society of American Military Engineers, and Duenas, Camacho & Associates.

President Enriquez also highlighted communications and advancement efforts, including the weekly "UOG Horizons: Knowledge for Life" feature in the Guam Daily Post, which showcases faculty and student research from the Margaret Perez Hattori-Uchima School of Health and the College of Natural and Applied Sciences. She presented the Board with a draft value prospectus designed to convey the university's mission and impact to external stakeholders, noted that the 2024 annual plan will soon be finalized and shared, and announced the production of a new impact video to be completed within the next 30 days. She credited Mr. Jonas Macapinlac and his team for their support in these initiatives.

In closing, President Enriquez expressed deep gratitude to UOG's faculty, staff, administrators, students, alumni, and board members, recognizing them as part of the ecosystem that sustains and advances the university's mission of teaching, research, and service.

5.0 REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

5.1 Student Affairs, Scholarship, Alumni Relations and Honorary Degree (SASARHD) Committee

5.1.1 Committee Update

Regent Chun reported that the SASARHD Committee met on April 16th at 1:00 p.m. with a quorum present and presented and reviewed the proposed resolution for the Board's approval.

Regent Chun highlighted recent developments across the University, with a strong focus on student services and success.

She stated that Dr. Gena Rojas, Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Services, reported a record 371 graduates in 2025, a 17.8% increase from 2024 reflecting expanded

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advisement services, financial literacy, career development, and behavioral health advisement services. EMSS has collaborated with college counselors to improve retention and graduation rates, while updated bursar policies are reducing financial barriers. Dr. Rojas also announced plans to revive the “98 to Graduate” program to re-engage near-completers, noting its past success in achieving high graduation outcomes.

She added that SVPP Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba reported that student persistence/retention rose to 89% in 2024, up from 74–75% in previous years and above national averages for open-admission public universities. She also noted the expansion of the Triton Summer Academy, which served 200 students last summer and is expected to double participation to 400 students this year, further supporting student integration and success.

In closing, the committee emphasized that its targeted interventions align closely with the University’s strategic dashboard goals and Strategic Pillar 1 of the Tulos Mo’na Plan, ensuring every student is guided to their destination. Key outcomes include improvements in 4 and 6 year graduation rates, first-to-second-year retention, and overall student and course satisfaction. The committee reaffirmed its commitment to accountability, innovation, and sustainable action plans to address barriers to student success, and expressed appreciation to faculty, staff, and leaders for their collective efforts in advancing these priorities.

5.1.2 Resolution No. 25-06, Relative to Approving the Fañomnākan 2025 Commencement Graduate Listing

Regent Chun introduced Resolution No. 25-06 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Malilay. She summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

5.2 Academic, Personnel and Tenure Committee (AP&T) Committee

5.2.1 Committee Update

Regent Malilay reported that the AP&T Committee met on April 16th at 2:33 p.m. with a quorum present and presented and reviewed the proposed resolution for the Board’s approval.

5.2.2 Resolution No. 25-07, Relative to Expressing Appreciation to Julie A.L. Laxamana for Her Service as a Member of the Board of Regents

Regent Malilay introduced Resolution No. 25-07 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Naholowaa. She summarized the resolution highlighting her contributions and service as a member of the Board of Regents. The motion carried.

Regent Chun congratulated Regent Laxamana, on completing her term, noting how she describe herself as an introvert shows the courage and growth she brought to her role, and hopes that other student leaders see her as a mentor and example. She added that Regent Laxamana has been an inspiration, holding them accountable and ensuring the student voice is heard.

5.3 Physical Facilities Committee

5.3.1 Committee Update

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Regent Diaz reported that the Physical Facilities Committee met on April 16th at 4:00 p.m. in the President's Conference Room with a quorum present. However, there were no resolutions for action.

He reported that the University of Guam has been notified that it must obtain a sanitary permit similar to those required of DOE schools. Facilities Management & Services (FMS) has identified approximately \$230,000 in needed repairs, ranging from cracked tiles to paint chips, and is actively working with deans and administrative officers to address them.

On capital projects, the Student Success Center is 73% complete with expected completion in August 2025, while the School of Engineering is 91% complete and on track for June 2025. Funding for furniture, fixtures, and equipment is still being sought through advisory council engagement and other partners. The Water & Environmental Research Institute EDA project is 46% complete with an October 2025 target, and the School of Health is 47% complete with the same expected completion date. Both projects will also require additional funding for furniture and equipment.

For IT infrastructure, the university has closed a bid for a new VoIP system that is projected to save approximately \$340,000. These savings will be repurposed to support modernization of other IT infrastructure, including network cabling, servers, and applications. Routine lifecycle maintenance is ongoing with no major updates, and FMS staff addressed all committee questions to the members' satisfaction.

5.4 Investment Committee

5.4.1 Committee Update

Regent Duenas reported that the Investment Committee met on April 17th at 1:30 p.m., with a quorum present.

He stated that Charles Despain reported that the Triton Investment Club Fund had a balance of \$57,000, down approximately \$10,000 from the prior meeting. Students are preparing to transition out of certain stocks, leaving the portfolio positioned in investments expected to perform well over the summer until new members assume responsibility in the fall.

He stated that Amanda Gima of Raymond James and Associates provided a market update, projecting GDP growth of 1% for the year, three Federal Reserve rate cuts, lower oil prices, and an S&P 500 year-end forecast of 5,800. She reported that the internal endowment fund stood at \$26.2 million, a decline of \$1.3 million since the previous meeting due to global tariff impacts, though most fund managers continued to meet or exceed their benchmarks. She highlighted Aristotle Capital Management for sustained underperformance and recommended that the committee place the manager on watch status. The committee approved this recommendation and directed that a letter of concern be issued.

He added that Ms. Gima further reported that the conservatively managed portfolio held a balance of \$4.76 million, a decrease of just over \$100,000 from the previous \$4.87 million, while maintaining an overall return of 5.87% since inception.

The committee also reviewed a resolution concerning the use of a University fund to secure a loan for FF&E related to new buildings. Due to changes in the resolution title, General Counsel

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advised re-advertisement prior to action. The committee voted to bring the revised resolution before the full Board at the next special meeting scheduled for the end of May.

5.4.2 Resolution No. 25-08, Relative to Adopting the Investment Policy Statement (IPS) for the Conservatively Managed Portfolio

Regent Duenas introduced Resolution No. 25-08 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Naholowaa. He summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

5.4.3 Resolution No. 25-09, Relative to Authorizing the President to Petition the Guam Legislature to Utilize Land Grant Fund Earnings for Additional Projects

Regent Duenas motioned to table Resolution No. 25-09. The motion was seconded by Regent Naholowaa. Upon call for the vote, all members present responded in favor. With no opposition heard, the motion carried. Resolution No. 25-09 will be tabled to the next meeting.

5.5 Budget, Finance, and Audit (BFA) Committee

Regent Naholowaa reported that the BFA Committee met on April 17th at 3:00 p.m. with a quorum present and presented and reviewed the proposed resolution for the Board's approval.

5.5.1 Financial Update

Regent Naholowaa stated that Vice President Wiegand reported that Bill No. 58-38 has been enacted into law, allowing the University to avoid a payless payday. The \$5.7 million allocation has provided sufficient funding for the University to operate through the remainder of the year on a bare-bones basis. A resolution on the budget will be discussed at a later date. VP Wiegand also noted that the actuarial report requested by the auditors has been completed and is under review. He requested to schedule a special BFA Meeting on May 15 to meet with the auditors and the Public Auditor in order to finalize the University's financial statements.

He reported that Comptroller Martin reviewed the financial statements, reporting a positive change in net position of \$4.5 million. She cautioned that this number is expected to decrease once all expenses are accrued.

He added that ABAPO Field presented the budget-to-actual statement, noting that the University has been operating within budgeted amounts, although some expenses have not yet been recorded in the financial statements.

5.5.2 Collections Report

Regent Naholowaa reported that Associate Bursar Flores presented the collections report. The University is currently 20 units short of reaching the halfway mark toward the collection goal. With three years remaining to achieve the \$200,000 target, the outlook is strong that the goal will be met.

5.5.3 Procurement Transactions and Contracts Report

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He noted that the CNAS contracted for a replacement generator for the building and that the resident halls executed a contract to provide one meal per day for dorm students.

The University also signed two contracts with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Public Health and Social Services to perform services on behalf of these agencies.

In addition, the Guam Cancer Trust Fund entered into five contracts with nonprofit organizations to deliver cancer-related services to patients. The report also highlighted four amendments to existing construction contracts tied to the four new buildings on campus, the most significant of which was for the construction of a waterline to the new WERI building.

5.5.4 Resolution No. 25-10, Relative to Approving the Re-Appportioned FY2025 General Operations and Special Appropriations Budgets

Regent Naholowaa introduced Resolution No. 25-10 and moved to approve, which was duly seconded by Regent Chun. He summarized the resolution explaining the purpose. The motion carried.

In closing, Regent Naholowaa reported that last fall, the University received a budget of \$34.2 million, of which \$1.6 million was reappropriated to the Guam Cultural Repository. The University informed the Legislature that a minimum of \$38.3 million was necessary to cover essential contracts, including insurance, software, licensing fees, and personnel costs. This left a deficit of \$5.7 million, preventing the University from submitting a balanced budget to the Board of Regents.

To maintain operations, the Board approved a rollover budget while awaiting resolution. Recently, legislation was passed providing an additional \$5.7 million, allowing the Board of Regents to adopt a re-apportioned budget. The University expressed gratitude to the Senators of the 38th Guam Legislature and the Governor for addressing the shortfall and enabling the University to avoid severe cuts.

6.0 AD HOC REPORT: ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION UPDATE

There is no report or update from the Endowment Foundation.

7.0 OPEN PRESENTATION (3 Minute Limit per Person)

Chairperson Leon Guerrero opened the floor for open presentations.

Dr. McNinch opened by recognizing Regent Julie Laxamana, highlighting her exceptional achievements during her time as a student. He noted that she is a Truman Scholar, a Congressional Award Gold Medalist, a former White House intern, and will serve as a Congressional intern this summer. He commended her for setting a remarkable example for UOG students.

He also shared that UOG student Kalyne Roberto recently participated in the NASPA competition, joining an international team that earned top recognition. He emphasized that this achievement underscores the potential of humanities graduates.

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Turning to governance and leadership, Dr. McNinch commended Regent Leon Guerrero for her leadership on the Board and expressed appreciation for her support. He also requested continuity and support in the leadership transition for his position.

He provided an overview of the School of Business and Public Administration, noting that while the school accounts for one-third of UOG students and produces 35–40% of graduates each semester, it has only about 10% of faculty. He explained that this imbalance results in a smaller institutional voice and increased challenges with academic bureaucracy. He stated that the school, with support from Dr. Swamy and the Faculty Union, will continue to address these challenges over the summer.

Dr. McNinch concluded by thanking the Regents for their time.

8.0 ADOPTION OF BOR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR AY2025-2026

Regent Malilay moved to adopt the BOR Meeting Schedule for AY2025-2026, which was duly seconded by Regent Naholowaa, The motion carried unanimously.

9.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairperson Leon Guerrero opened the floor for nominations for the BOR Officer positions. She noted that the new slate of officers' term will assume their roles beginning June 1, 2025.

9.1 Chairperson

Regent Mike Naholowaa nominated Regent Agapito "Pete" Diaz to serve as Chairperson. Chairperson Leon Guerrero inquired if Regent Diaz accepts the nomination, and Regent Diaz confirmed acceptance.

9.2 Vice Chairperson

Regent Edward Ulloa nominated Regent Mike Naholowaa to serve as Vice Chairperson. Chairperson Leon Guerrero inquired if Regent Naholowaa accepts the nomination, and Regent Naholowaa confirmed acceptance.

9.3 Treasurer

Regent Mike Naholowaa nominated Regent Christopher Duenas to serve as Treasurer. Chairperson Leon Guerrero inquired if Regent Duenas accepts the nomination, and Regent Duenas confirmed acceptance.

Chairperson Leon Guerrero asked if there were any further nominations on the floor, which there were none. Chairperson Leon Guerrero requested for a motion to close the nominations. Regent Ulloa moved to close the nominations, which was duly seconded by Regent Chun and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Leon Guerrero then proceeded to call for the vote for the slate of nominations, and all voted unanimously in favor of Regent Diaz as Chairperson, Regent Naholowaa as Vice Chairperson and Regent Duenas as Treasurer.

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10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Regent Ulloa motioned to move to Executive Session, which was duly seconded by Regent Diaz. The motion carried. The Executive Session commenced at 6:32 p.m.

10.1 Recommendation for Tenure for Dr. Albert Valentine, Assistant Professor of Management

The Board reconvened in open session at 7:03 p.m.

11.0 VOTING FILE

11.1 Recommendation for Tenure for Dr. Albert Valentine. Assistant Professor of Management

Chairperson Leon Guerrero stated that Dr. Valentine requested to withdraw his tenure application. Accordingly, no action was taken by the Board at this time.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Regent Diaz moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was duly seconded by Regent Chun. The motion carried. Chairperson Leon Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m., CHamoru Standard Time.



Agapito "Pete" Diaz, Chairperson

ATTESTED:



Anita Borja Enriquez, D.B.A., Executive Secretary



UOG Celebrates 57th Charter Day!

The University of Guam celebrated its 57th Charter Day on March 6, 2025, under the theme "From Island Wisdom to Global Impact." Festivities kicked off with an opening ceremony at the Calvo Field House and extended across campus with vibrant displays of culture, learning, and community spirit.

Thousands were on campus to celebrate with UOG, including over 1,700 students from public, private, charter, and DODEA schools. Throughout the day, the campus buzzed with activity. Highlights included the CHamoru Language Competition, food demos and drone displays, cultural performances by student organizations, and interactive science and technology exhibits.

[View Photo Highlights](#)



**Håfa Adai,
Triton Community!**

Welcome to the April edition of The President's Report. This newsletter will keep you updated on the latest news, achievements, and milestones at the University of Guam.

From groundbreaking research to student success stories, our university continues to deliver public value and make strides in our mission to serve the region. I look forward to sharing these highlights with you and keeping you connected to our Triton community.

**ANITA BORJA
ENRIQUEZ, D.B.A.
PRESIDENT**

STRATEGIC PILLAR 1

I Pineksai Unibetsedåt: Ensuring that every student receives a guided voyage to their destination.



UOG Nursing Student Dela Cruz Named 2025 Truman Scholar

April 21, 2025 - Grace Anne Dela Cruz, a junior at the University of Guam majoring in Nursing with a minor in Public Administration, has been named a 2025 Truman Scholar — one of the nation's most prestigious scholarships for students pursuing careers in public service.

She is one of 54 students selected nationwide from an applicant pool of 743 candidates representing 288 institutions. Dela Cruz is the 22nd Truman Scholar in the University's history and the first ever from its nursing program.

The Truman Scholarship awards \$30,000 toward graduate studies and provides access to leadership training and a network of change-makers. Created by Congress in 1975 as a living memorial to President Harry S. Truman, the Foundation honors college juniors with exceptional leadership potential and a commitment to public service.

Dela Cruz currently serves as Secretary for the 63rd UOG Student Government Association and as the UOG Representative in the 35th Guam Youth Congress. She credits the University with shaping her leadership journey.

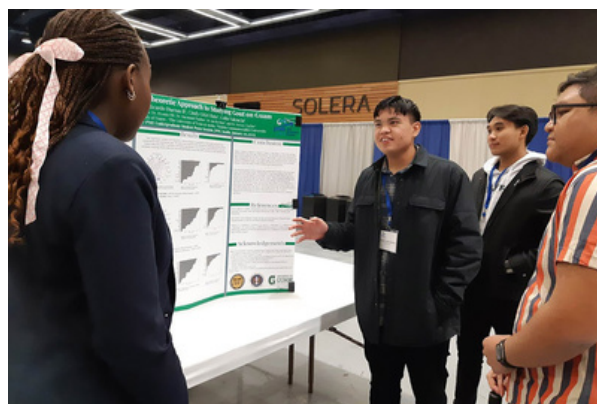
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Undergrads travel to Seattle for world's largest meeting of mathematicians

April 20, 2025 - This semester 12 undergraduate students travelled to Seattle to attend the largest annual meeting of mathematicians in the world. The four-day Joint Mathematics Meeting, presented an opportunity for the students to not only attend presentations and network, but to present their own math research projects and connect with UOG math alumni.

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STRATEGIC PILLAR 1

I Pineksai Unibetsedåt: Ensuring that every student receives a guided voyage to their destination.



Guam Chamber of Commerce Selects 2025 Dave J. Santos Scholarship Recipient

February 24, 2025 - The Guam Chamber of Commerce announced the selection of Brian Andrew Teodosio as the Guam Chamber of Commerce Dave J. Santos Scholarship Recipient for the Spring 2025 semester at the University of Guam. Brian is a Junior majoring in Business Administration. In addition to the \$1,000.00 tuition assistance for the semester, he will also serve as an intern at the Guam Chamber Office.

This scholarship is sponsored and funded by the members of the Guam Chamber of Commerce in recognition of the achievements of the late Dave J. Santos, an entrepreneur, past Chairman of the Guam Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. The scholarship is available to undergraduate juniors and seniors enrolled in the UOG School of Business and Public Administration.

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UOG and COM - FSM establish 2+2 transfer pathway for agriculture students

March 12, 2025 - A new transfer student agreement has been established between the University of Guam and the College of Micronesia – Federated States of Micronesia.

The “COM-FSM to UOG 2+2 Pathway in Agriculture” allows students who have earned a two-year associate degree in Agriculture & Natural Resources Management at the COM-FSM to transfer directly into their junior year of UOG’s Agriculture & Life Sciences bachelor’s program under the Tropical Agriculture Production track.

The program became official on Dec. 10, 2024, when COM-FSM President and CEO Theresa Koroivulaono and UOG President Anita Borja Enriquez signed a Memorandum of Agreement.

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CHamoru Studies Alum Serving as Yigo Vice Mayor

April 20, 2025 - In the most recent village elections, Yigo welcomed its newest Vice Mayor, Pedro Blas. At 27 years old, the University of Guam alumnus is the youngest Vice Mayor in the village’s history, but Blas’s youth is not to be underestimated. His background and experiences thus far have led him on a path where he has been able to put his passion for culture and community into action. [READ MORE...](#)



STRATEGIC PILLAR 1

I Pineksai Unibetsedåt: Ensuring that every student receives a guided voyage to their destination.



Incoming Freshmen Invited to Attend UOG Triton Summer Academy

April 18, 2025 - The University of Guam invites all new freshmen coming to UOG this August to register for the Triton Summer Academy. During this free, one-week college readiness program, students will:

- Experience college life with their peers before the semester begins
- Take part in workshops designed to prepare them for the UOG math and English placement tests
- Get direct support from Financial Aid, Admissions, and other student services available at UOG.

Interested students are encouraged to sign up for one of ten cohort sessions offered by the academy. Each cohort session will include a three-hour agenda every day from Monday to Friday.

[READ MORE...](#)



UOG Launches Year-Long Online Course Schedule

April 1, 2025 - The University of Guam is excited to unveil an innovation in academic planning: an online, year-long Course Schedule is now live for the Academic Year 2025–2026.

For the first time, students, advisors, and the entire Triton community can view the full lineup of course offerings across all four academic terms for 2025–2026 — Fanuchånan (Fall), Tinalo' (Intersession), Fañomnåkan (Spring), and Finakpo' (Summer) — on a user-friendly platform.

Key Features of the Online Course Schedule include the ability to search courses with ease by semester, college, subject, course level, or instructor; view key academic dates, including application and graduation deadlines; and mobile-friendly browsing on any device.

[READ MORE...](#)



SGA Crowns Inaugural Miss UOG Pageant Winner

April 2, 2025 - The UOG Student Government Association crowned its first-ever Miss UOG during Blue Night on March 7, 2025. The highly anticipated event showcased the intelligence, talent, and leadership of UOG's brightest women, culminating in the crowning of graduating business administration major Ashley Topasña as the inaugural Miss UOG.

[READ MORE...](#)

STRATEGIC PILLAR 1

I Pineksai Unibetsedåt: Ensuring that every student receives a guided voyage to their destination.



Gage Johnson Scholarships Given To Triton Men's and Women's Basketball Players

April 18, 2025 - The University of Guam Triton Athletics and Field House Department awarded three scholarships on Wednesday night, April 16, to two women's basketball players and one men's basketball player.

The scholarships, known as the Gage Johnson Scholarships, are named after UOG Athletic Hall of Fame member Gage Johnson, who donated \$2,000 to Triton Athletics through the UOG Endowment Foundation. The scholarships are designated for both men's and women's basketball players.

The recipients of the scholarships were Marie Duenas and Kai Quidachay, who each received a \$500 scholarship for women's basketball, and Tristan Valdes from the men's team, who received a \$1,000 scholarship.

[READ MORE...](#)

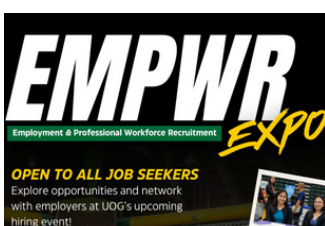


Inspiration abroad: UOG business and agriculture students tour Taiwan's bustling agritourism industry

March 30, 2025 - A group of agriculture and business students and faculty from the University of Guam got to immerse themselves in Taiwan's bustling agritourism industry during a study-abroad trip in January. The trip marks the university's third study-abroad experience to Taiwan since 2022, with this one focusing on agricultural ventures that incorporate tourism and environmental sustainability.

The students who attended were all enrolled this semester in "Agribusiness Management," an upper-level course taught by Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics Kuan-Ju Chen. For their final course project, the students will use their study abroad experience to develop a comprehensive marketing plan for an agritourism business in Guam.

[READ MORE...](#)



EMPWR Expo Connects Job Seekers & Employers

April 18, 2025 - UOG invites current students, recent graduates, alumni, and job seekers from the public to join the upcoming 2025 UOG EMPWR Expo on Friday, April 25, 2025, at the UOG Calvo Field House from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free networking and recruitment event will connect attendees with top employers in Guam. [READ MORE...](#)

STRATEGIC PILLAR 2

Position UOG as a trusted source for quality programs, research, service and extension.



UOG's Research Excellence Recognized in 2025 Carnegie Classification

April 21, 2025 - The University of Guam has been recognized as a Research College and University (RCU) by the 2025 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. This designation reaffirms UOG's commitment to advancing research in Micronesia and places UOG among 216 institutions across the U.S. with significant research activity, underscoring its role in driving innovation and knowledge creation.

According to the Carnegie Classification update, UOG reported \$22.4 million in research expenditures for fiscal year 2023, solidifying its standing as a key research institution in the Pacific. UOG's robust research grant portfolio supports groundbreaking work in marine and environmental sciences, terrestrial biology, water resources, health sciences, public policy and economics, Micronesian history and culture, and agriculture—areas of critical importance to Guam and the broader Micronesian region.

In fiscal year 2023, UOG managed over 170 federal research grants which supported 224 full and part-time positions and contributed \$10 million in salaries and benefits to the local economy.

UOG President Anita Borja Enriquez emphasized the significance of this milestone: "The University of Guam will build on this recognition and momentum as we tulos mo'na (propel forward together in unison). We remain focused on initiatives that will further UOG's ability to provide a valuable education, serve the needs of the communities in Guam and the region, and drive transformative research from island wisdom to global impact."

The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, established in 1970, is the leading framework for categorizing U.S. colleges and universities based on their academic offerings, research activities, and overall institutional characteristics. The RCU designation strengthens UOG's position among national and international research institutions, unlocking funding opportunities, academic collaborations, community engagements, partnerships, and enhanced student research experiences.

[READ MORE...](#)



STRATEGIC PILLAR 2

Position UOG as a trusted source for quality programs, research, service and extension.



Highlights: 2025 Conference on Island Sustainability: Solutions for our Future

The 2025 University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability, held from April 7 to 12 at the Hyatt Regency Guam, brought together island leaders, scientists, policymakers, and community members to address sustainability challenges facing island communities.

Through keynotes, panels, workshops, and excursions, participants explored solutions in climate adaptation, renewable energy, agriculture, waste management, and resilience. Experts from the Pacific and beyond shared research and best practices, fostering collaboration and innovation for a sustainable island future.

Check out news from the conference:

- [Marshall Islands joins Green Growth movement, commits to 100% renewable energy at UOG sustainability conference](#)
- [G3 regional partner CNMI Green Growth reports food security initiatives at CIS2025](#)
- [First Green Growth Summit at CIS2025 celebrates Guam's role in expanding movement across Micronesia](#)
- [Initial results of valuation study show G3's socio-economic potential](#)
- [UOG Sustainability Conference townhall explores ocean and wave energy for the island](#)
- [CIS2025 MONDAY: Collaborative, innovative solutions at Conference on Island Sustainability](#)
- [In the News: Researchers showcase tools to make collecting environmental data faster](#)

STRATEGIC PILLAR 2

Position UOG as a trusted source for quality programs, research, service and extension.



UOG's Demeulenaere contributes to plant classification study that includes h̄ayun lagu

March 13, 2025 - Else Demeulenaere, Ph.D., associate director for natural resources at the University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant Island Conservation Lab, has contributed to research that reclassified Caesalpinoidea, a group of plants that includes the critically endangered Serianthes.

Recently published in PhytoKeys, this study provides a new understanding of the relationships between various plant species within this diverse group.

[READ MORE...](#)



CLASS Annual Research Conference from March 6-7

March 6, 2025 - The University of Guam College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) hosted the 46th Annual Research Conference from March 6-7, 2025. This year's theme was "Tapestries of Resilience: Securing Our Island Communities."

The conference featured keynote speaker will be Dr. Mary Therese Perez Hattori, Director of the Pacific Islands Development Program and affiliate faculty at the East-West Center. In her presentation, "Resilience in Uncertain Times: A Pacific Perspective", Dr. Hattori highlighted some continuing and emerging threats to peace and prosperity in Oceania, including the US affiliated Pacific, and the opportunities they present.

[READ MORE...](#)



In the News: Strength in Diversity: Small Island States, Climate Resilience, and Our Responsibility to Each Other

April 18, 2025 - Dr. Hiroshan Hettiarachchi, Dean and Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Guam School of Engineering, was featured in The Green American in an article on sustainability in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In the interview, Dr. Hettiarachchi offered expert insight into the environmental challenges these island nations face, drawing from examples from Guam and the Marshall Islands.

[READ MORE...](#)

STRATEGIC PILLAR 2

Position UOG as a trusted source for quality programs, research, service and extension.



Cook smart and age well: UOG Extension workshop series returned in April

March 28, 2025 - A six-session workshop series focused on embracing aging and cooking healthy meals will be returning to the University of Guam in April. Back by popular demand for its third iteration, the series combines the curriculum of the Nihi ta Fanmama'tinas (Let's Cook) and the Keys to Embracing Healthy Aging programs taught by University of Guam Cooperative Extension & Outreach.

The classes will take place from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from April 15 to May 1 on the UOG campus.

[READ MORE...](#)



UOG opens CHalan Deskubre Hub, bringing place-based science to youth

March 31, 2025 - The UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant officially launched the CHalan Deskubre Hub, an interactive science learning center designed to ignite curiosity and foster a love for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in Guam's youth. The hub, located at Dean Circle, above the post office at the UOG campus.

The CHalan Deskubre Hub aims to provide a hands-on, immersive learning experience, inspired by place-based material with the natural wonders and environmental challenges specific to Guam.

[READ MORE...](#)



UOG Extension hosts workshops in backyard egg production

March 31, 2025 - The agriculture team at University of Guam's Cooperative Extension & Outreach and Western Pacific Tropical Research Center under UOG's Land Grant hosted a four-hour Backyard Egg Production Workshop in April. Each participant received two pure-bred Buff Orpington chicks to get their home egg production started.

[READ MORE...](#)

STRATEGIC PILLAR 3

Enrich the Employee Experience through Inadåhi yan Inagofli'e.



UOG Maintenance Staff Earn Electrical Journeyman Certifications

March 14, 2025 - University of Guam employees Francis Bautista, Bertha Meno, and Gus Meno were recently recognized for earning their Electrical Journeyman Certificates from the GCA Trades Academy after completing a rigorous training program from 2021 to 2025. Their advanced expertise in troubleshooting and maintaining electrical systems will enhance efficiency and reliability across campus operations. They are joined by UOG leadership and colleagues in celebrating this achievement.

From left to right: Randall Wiegand, Vice President of Administration and Finance and Chief Business Officer; Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba, Senior Vice President and Provost; Gus Meno, Electrician I; Bertha Meno, Electrician I; Francis Bautista, Electrician I; John Leon Guerrero, PMT Superintendent; Rachel Field, Associate Budget and Process Officer; and Glenn Leon Guerrero, former Facilities Management and Services Director. [READ MORE...](#)



UOG Connects Campus and Community through Triton Privileges Program

March 28, 2025 - The University of Guam celebrated the official relaunch of its Triton Privileges program today with a special event on campus that welcomed students, employees, alumni, and local business partners to explore the all-new platform and its benefits.



Triton Privileges is the university's exclusive perks program offering discounts and special deals from a growing network of more than 60 Guam-based merchants — including restaurants, shops, service providers, and entertainment venues. The program is free and accessible to all current and former UOG students, alumni, and employees through a user-friendly web application at privileges.uog.edu.

[READ MORE...](#)

STRATEGIC PILLAR 4

Enrich the Employee Experience through Inadåhi yan Inagofli'e.



UOG Golf Challenge Raises Over \$20,000 for Student Scholarships

April 4, 2025 - The University of Guam proudly celebrated the successful launch of its first-ever UOG Golf Driving Range Challenge: "Driving Higher Education Fore-ward!" on Sunday, March 30, 2025, at the Country Club of the Pacific in Windward Hills. As the final event of UOG Charter Month, it brought together students, businesses, alumni, and community members to rally around a shared mission—making higher education more accessible.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of sponsors, participants, and supporters, the event raised more than \$20,000 for the University's College Affordability Initiative. Through [scholarships](#) managed by the [UOG Endowment Foundation](#), the initiative supports students needing financial assistance to stay on course to earn their degrees.

[READ MORE...](#)

[PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS](#)

UOG ADVANCEMENT UPDATES

ALUMNI INITIATIVES

- The UOG Triton Alumni Connection Facebook and Instagram pages are now active and engaging with the community online.
- Development of the UOG Alumni Connection Website is currently in progress.
- In progress sending an invitation to alumni working at GDOE through, encouraging them to update their information on the website under development. As of date receiving response.

- A tentative date of June 12 has been set for the Alumni Mixer. Create social committee to assist in organizing the mixer.
- Efforts continue to collect information from alumni across various industries through the "Calling All Triton Alumni" initiative.

Donor Wall:

- Collaboration with the President is underway to design and prepare flyers and other materials for the Donor Wall and the Capital Improvement presentation.

STRATEGIC PILLAR 4

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[PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS](#)

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UOG HORIZONS: KNOWLEDGE FOR LIFE

UOG Horizons: Knowledge for Life is a weekly column in the Guam Daily Post on agriculture, food, nutrition, health and wellness and natural resources written by faculty from the University of Guam School of Health and from UOG's Land Grant extension service and research center.

THE GUAM DAILY POST™

UOG's Learning Resources Center: Shaping the future of health care

By: Jennifer M. Salas, RN, Learning Resources Center Coordinator at the Margaret Perez Hattori-Uchima School of Health
Published: Feb. 23, 2025

Learning CHamoru is good for your health

By: Dr. Gerhard Schwab, Professor of Social Work, Margaret Perez Hattori-Uchima School of Health
Published: March 10, 2025

From pests to partners: Navigating backyard gardening with feral chickens

By: Dr. Robert Barber, Liu, Associate Director of the Cooperative Extension & Outreach, College of Natural and Applied Sciences
Published: Feb. 2, 2025

Make your Arbor Day tree plantings a success

By: Roland Quitugua is a horticulturalist and arborist with the UOG Extension Service at the College of Natural and Applied Sciences
Published: March 31, 2025

3 native plants to add beauty and benefit to your landscape

Joseph Tuquero, a horticulturalist with the University of Guam Extension Service under the UOG Land Grant, provided the expertise for this piece with contributions from extension agent Mark Acosta.
Published: April 6, 2025

Knowledge for Life Parenting with great love

By: Dr. Lisa Linda Natividad, Professor of Social Work and CHamoru Studies at the University of Guam.
Published: April 13, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out what's happening at UOG!

Ongoing to Wednesday, Apr. 30 - Fanuchánan '25 Scholarships

Fanuchánan 2025 Scholarships are now open, with many scholarships available. Submit your application by April 30, 2025, at 4 p.m.

Ongoing to Friday, Apr. 25 - UOG Undergraduate Exhibition

The exhibition will be held from April 10 to 25 at the Isla Center for the Arts and is open from Monday to Friday: 10-5 p.m.; Saturdays: 10-2 p.m.; and closed on Sundays.

Thursday, Apr. 24 & Friday, Apr. 25 - Semi-Annual Business Office Clinics

Open to all UOG personnel, these Zoom sessions from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. are geared toward staff handling business transactions. Topics include Cash Handling, Payroll, General Accounts, Procurement, and more.

Thursday, Apr. 24 - Let's Cook & Keys to Embracing Aging Workshop, Session 4: Let's Cook on a Budget!

Don't miss the return of the popular six-session series at UOG, where you'll master cooking meals while embracing the keys to healthy aging. Let's Cook on a Budget! focusing on Practice Being Safe and Know Your Health Numbers will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Agriculture & Life Sciences Building, Room 125B. Cost: \$10.00.

Thursday, Apr. 24 - Full Board of Regents Q2 2025 Regular Meeting

This meeting will be open to the public and live-streamed from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and will be held at the UOG RFK Library, Silent Room.

Friday, Apr. 25 - QuickBooks Pt II.

Join the advanced QuickBooks session to learn bank reconciliation, reporting, and tax tools at UOG SBPA Rm. 148 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Fee: \$150

Friday, Apr. 25 - EMPWR Expo

Don't miss out on one of the island's biggest hiring events of the year. Connect with potential talent, conduct on-the-spot interviews, and find the perfect candidate for your team at the UOG Calvo Field House from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, Apr. 25 - Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Program Application Deadline

The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Program is now accepting applications for AY 2025–2026. If you're ready to make a difference, apply by April 25 at 11:59 p.m. and start your journey toward a meaningful career in social work.

UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)

Check out what's happening at UOG!

Monday, Apr.28 - Open Mic Night

Get ready for another night filled with singing, poetry, and comedy. This event is free and open to everyone—whether you're a UOG student, a GCC student, or a member of the island community. Bring your friends and family and join us!

Tuesday, Apr. 29 - Let's Cook & Keys to Embracing Aging

Workshop, session 5: Let's Cook Breakfast!

Don't miss the return of the popular six-session series at UOG, where you'll master cooking meals while embracing the keys to healthy aging. Let's Cook Breakfast! focusing on Stress Management and Financial Affairs will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Agriculture & Life Sciences Building, Room 125B. Cost: \$10.00.

Thursday, May 1 - Let's Cook & Keys to Embracing Aging

Workshop, Session 6: Let's Cook Local!

Don't miss the return of the popular six-session series at UOG, where you'll master cooking meals while embracing the keys to healthy aging. Let's Cook Local! focusing on Sleep and Taking Time for You will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Agriculture & Life Sciences Building, Room 125B. Cost: \$10.00.

Friday, May 2 & Saturday, May 3 - TeAda Production "Nothing Micro About Micronesia"

A Theatrical Touring Performance by TeAda Productions, presented by the University of Guam, Humanities Guåhan, and the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency, will be held on May 2 at 7 p.m. and May 3 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the UOG Fine Arts Theatre. Fee: \$15 - \$25

For more upcoming events, visit <https://www.uog.edu/calendar/>.
