



**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM  
UNIBETSEDAT GUÅHAN  
Board of Regents**

**Resolution No. 23-24**

**RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO DR. THOMAS W. KRISE  
FOR HIS DEDICATION AND OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE  
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM AS THE 11<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise, the son and grandson of army medical service officers, was born at Fort Sam Houston, Texas and raised in St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, which sparked his lifelong interest in the cultures of the Caribbean islands;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise graduated from All Saints Cathedral School on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, in 1979, earned a Bachelor of Science in history from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1983, a Master of Science in Administration in human resources management from Central Michigan University in 1986, a Master of Arts in English from the University of Minnesota in 1989, and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Chicago in 1995;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise served 22 years on active duty in the United States Air Force as a missileer and public affairs officer, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2005;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise, held various academic positions to include President of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington (2012-2017), where he continues to hold the title of President Emeritus (since 2017); was Dean of the College of the Pacific (Faculty of Arts and Sciences), University of the Pacific in Stockton, California (2008-2012); Chair of the Department of English, University of Central Florida in Orlando Florida (2005-2007); Director, Air Force Humanities Institute (1997-2005) and Deputy Head of the Department of English & Fine Arts (2002-2003), U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado; Vice Director of the National Defense University Press and Senior Military Fellow of the Institute for National Strategic Studies in Washington DC (1995-1997); and Professor in English at the University of Central Florida (2005-2007), University of the Pacific (2007-2012), Pacific Lutheran University (2012-2018), and University of Guam (2018-2023);

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise became the 11<sup>th</sup> President of the University of Guam (UOG) on August 6, 2018 to serve as the chief executive officer responsible for the administration of the academic, business, and services activities of the University, and implemented numerous positive initiatives over the next five years through the end of his tenure on August 5, 2023;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise, in addition to his duties as UOG's 11<sup>th</sup> President, held positions to include Executive Secretary to the Board of Regents (BOR), Executive Secretary to the UOG Endowment Foundation Board of Directors, Chair of the Board of Directors for the Research Corporation of UOG, Vice Chair of the Guam Council on Climate Change Preparedness & Resiliency, Co-Chair (with the Governor) of the Guam Green Growth (G3) Initiative, Principal Investigator and Chair of the Pacific Island Council of the Islands of Opportunity Alliance - Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (AOI-LSAMP), Advisory Board Member of the UOG Press, Governing Board Member of the Pacific Post-Secondary Education Council, and Governing Board Member of the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) - Pacific;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise, guided and facilitated the transition of the Good-To-Great Strategic Plan to the Para Hulo' Strategic Plan, keeping the strengths of what UOG has achieved and reshaping area of improvements into six strategic initiatives – (1) Being Recognized

as a Research University centered around island wisdom, (2) Leading as a Partner University, (3) Enriching the Student Experience, (4) Becoming a model for Operations and Customer Service in Guam and all of Micronesia, (5) Growing our Financial Resources, and (6) Building and Sustaining our Infrastructure;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise played an active role with the UOG leadership team and the Guam Legislature to pass the “21<sup>st</sup> Century Bill” in December 2020, which is now Public Law 35-114, that allows UOG to further define other academic personnel, classify student employees, establish the Center for Island Sustainability, repeal the old Guam National Energy Institute, establish the UOG Sea Grant Special Fund, establish representation to the Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environmental Programme, promulgate procurement regulations, and authorize short-term borrowing and long-term leasing and contracting;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise supported and guided the framework in private-public-partnership resulting in at least two projects implemented which includes the partnership with CoreSeed and the Guam Aquaculture Development and Training Center (GADTC) to continue with several hundred pounds of pathogen-free shrimp and tilapia production in partnership with Hyatt, Dusit Hotels, and Fishermen’s COOP; and the Sieman’s partnership that will provide several millions of dollars in energy efficient projects and facility upgrades;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise expanded other partnerships through increasing the AmeriCorps and G3 services to initiatives involving village Mayor offices for community garden and aquaponics systems, and support to the Guam Department of Agriculture and Guam Department of Education (GDOE); expanding UOG Press partnerships and contracts with GDOE for local history books, expanding CHamoru children’s literature series, and partnering with other university presses and regional partners such as the Northern Marianas College and Palau Community College; and strengthening the Water and Environmental Research Institute (WERI) with Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) and other federal agencies to advance the OneGuam initiative to unify fresh water management on Guam;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise fostered the expansion and increase of federal research grants and contracts supporting the growth into the top thirty-two percent (32%) of public universities in the National Science Foundation research grant expenditures in 2022;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise continued to host the 37<sup>th</sup> through 42<sup>nd</sup> President Lecture Series designed to bring in special speakers who can talk to unique or highly visible topics where students and the island community can dialog and grow from the experience, as well as the annual Center on Island Sustainability Conferences from 2019 through 2023 bringing a variety of subject matter experts together to address issues and concerns regarding local, regional, and global matters in areas of responsible environmental stewardship, strong economic development, and social progress and well-being;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise fostered the construction for four (4) new critical facilities to include the Lucio C. Tan Student Success Center, School of Engineering, Margaret Perez Hattori-Uchima School of Health Annex, and the Water and Environmental Research Institute, all of which are expected to start construction in 2023;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise improved UOG operations through initiatives such as moving the UOG catalog and graduate bulletin online resulting in savings of over \$30K per year; increasing the speed of institutional websites allowing for faster access for students and employees; implementing the new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system improving UOG’s ability to track engagement of prospective and current students towards enrollment and registration; instituting electronic signature programs significantly reducing staffing time for

documents to be processed; initiating the revamp of the University Policy Manual to be fully online; and reorganizing the Facilities Management & Services organization to align services for current and future needs;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise established the Triton Esports Program in 2020, which has produced over 80 athletes, competed in 270 games in 90 collegiate sanctioned matches under the National Association of College Esports, and achieving a rank of number one in Super Smash in its conference in 2022 and with two of its players ranking third and fourth in the U.S. in the same title in 2021, and works with local organizations to grow Esports in Guam and the region;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise led the University to be ranked in 2022-2023 U.S. News and World Reports Best Colleges and Universities rankings as a “Top Performer in Social Mobility” ranked 30<sup>th</sup>, “Top Public School – Regional Universities (West)” ranked 30<sup>th</sup>, “Best Regional University” ranked 70<sup>th</sup>, and has a Campus Ethnic Diversity rank of 57<sup>th</sup>.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise strengthened military relations resulting in UOG being identified as a Military Friendly® Institution with Bronze and Silver Awards from 2021 to 2023; published the first issue of the Leadership Journal of Micronesia from the UOG ROTC Program and UOG Press; and partnered with the Navy’s Seabees Detachment to renovate the open-air lab facility roof at Marine Lab;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise supported the work of the Marketing and Communications Office resulting in the achievements of over 40 national and international awards to include the Council for the Advancement of Secondary Education (CASE) Circle of Excellence Awards, the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Awards, the College Advertising Awards, the Internet Advertising Awards and the MobileWeb Awards;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise supported academic programs to include the continuance of the School of Engineering’s (SENG) Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering program which produced its first 12 graduates in Fanuchanan 2021; articulation of courses for degree programs with the Guam Community College, Northern Marianas College, and Palau Community College; special accreditation for SENG, School of Business and Public Administration, and School of Education; establishment of Minor and Certificate programs in Cybersecurity; establishment of the Peace Corps Program, an undergraduate certificate program designed to target coursework with hands-on experience, building the competencies needed for students to become Peace Corps volunteers or other intercultural fieldworkers; establishment of the Certificate in Island Wisdom: Foundations in Micronesian Seafaring; and establishment of a new Doctor of Education (EdD) in Instructional and Academic Leadership approved by the BOR on June 6, 2023;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise, during the public health emergency between March 2020 to January 2023, encouraged and contributed to UOG’s involvement to support the island’s critical needs which included sustained support of the UOG Calvo Field House and personnel support for the central Vaccination Clinic in partnership with the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) and the Guam Army National Guard for the island’s vaccination initiative; personnel support through UOG AmeriCorps at the Tiyan COVID-19 testing site; group mass testing for the Homeless Count of 180-volunteer personnel and other groups affected by COVID-19; the conduct N95 Fit Testing for the Homeless Coalition and Lighthouse Recovery Center Staff; online next step COVID-Ready Caregiver courses in partnership with sixteen (16) organizations impacting six (6) regional islands and over 668 trained individuals; tele-health counseling services for local hospitals and health care agencies; COVID-19 tele-education in partnership with three (3) primary care groups, ten (10) community-based organizations, and eight (8) academic institutions on Guam, in the Region, and in California; helping a large Agat family affected by COVID-19 and in need of clothing, food, and testing; health clinic and outreach support for residents at Gill-Baza and

“Zero Down” subdivisions who were considered underserved and at-risk communities; accelerating senior class nurses in Fañomñakan 2020 and creating a new temporary Certified Nursing Assistant training program in partnership with DPHSS and the hospitals to boost the island’s capacity of nurses; and hosting COVID-19 awareness presentations with the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise, during the public health emergency, also ensured the critical needs of UOG’s operations and student/employee safety were met by approving the development and implementation of the University’s Continuity of Operations Plan that provided the framework for continued services for students and other customers while maintaining DPHSS guidelines to include deliberate and careful planning of student support, classes, and community outreach programs; the process instituted at UOG kept internal transmission of the COVID-19 on campus to a minimum while holding mostly online instruction in academic year 2020-2021 and at the beginning of the transition back to face-to-face and hybrid instruction for academic year 2021-2022;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise led UOG in celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> Platinum Anniversary in 2022, whose theme was “*University of Guam: 70 Years of Transforming Lives and Advancing Communities*”, hosting several key events to include, but not limited to, a virtual Platinum Jubilee Kickoff in October 2021; Mural Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in November 2021; Charter Day celebration in March 2022; Liberation Day Float participation in partnership with the Guam Community College in July 2022; an award winning 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Museum Exhibit highlighting a plethora of history of UOG with UOG@70, Land Grant@50, Marine Lab@50, UOGEF@40, and Sea Grant status in August 2022; Triton Success Stories showcases which brought an attendance of nearly 2,500 including: 700+ high schoolers, 500+ special-event guests, and 1,100+ walk-ins.; and culminating in a Platinum Jubilee Finale in December 2022;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise established two medals (President’s Medal (Milåyan Presidenten) and Distinguished Service Medal (Milåyan Afamao Gi Setbisio)) during the UOG’s 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022 that recognizes individuals who demonstrate the spirit of the mission of UOG - Ina, Deskubre, Setbe - by way of significant service to the communities in which they live;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise and his wife, Patricia (Patty) Krise, in February 2020, have made personal investment into helping UOG students pursue and complete their degrees by donating \$85,000 to the UOG Endowment Foundation as three endowed scholarships – (1) first-generation college students, (2) students who have demonstrated need to complete their degree programs, and (3) students who will be participating in unpaid internships with nonprofit organizations;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas W. Krise, as the 11<sup>th</sup> UOG President, made great strides in reshaping and implementing many facets of the UOG Para Hulo’ Strategic Plan in Research, Partnership, Student Experience, Customer Service, Financial Resources, and Infrastructure; managing critical support to the community while maintaining safe operations for students and employees during an unprecedented public health emergency that spanned over two years and nine months; successfully celebrating UOG’s 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary through showcasing its history and achievements, and highlighting the University’s critical role in the development of the professional workforce in Guam and the region over the past 70 years, and the continuity of its mission for the next 70 years; and giving back to the students through major endowed scholarship donation of \$85,000; and


**WHEREAS**, the Academic, Personnel, and Tenure Committee has reviewed this recommendation and recommends approval of this resolution to the BOR expressing appreciation

to Dr. Thomas W. Krise for his numerous accomplishments leading UOG to move *Ever Upward – Para Hulo’*.

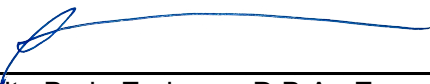
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the UOG BOR, the administration, faculty, staff, and students, convey to Dr. Thomas W. Krise their heartfelt gratitude for his significant achievements, exemplary service, and devotion to the growth and prosperity of our University, people of Guam, and Region, as the 11<sup>th</sup> President; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of the resolution be sent to Dr. Thomas W. Krise and his family, to UOG, to the Governor of Guam, and to the Speaker and members of the thirty-seventh (37<sup>th</sup>) Guam Legislature.

Adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

  
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Sandra H. McKeever, Chairperson

**ATTESTED:**

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