

# SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

## President's Cabinet

March 3, 2026 | 2:15 – 3:45 p.m. | MC 211 A

### 1) CALL TO ORDER: Ashanti Hands, President

### 2) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a) District and Campus Updates: President Hands' shared information to Cabinet meeting attendees on the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) tool kit and provided a PDF link. HACU provides toolkits designed to help member institutions promote awareness and collaboration including resources for social media templates, graphics, and advocacy.
- b) Dr. Hands recognized key individuals behind the successful pursuit of the second Baccalaureate degree program: VPI Isabel O'Connor, Dean Cassandra Storey, Gail Bachman, Mandy Johnston, and Mona Alison.
- c) President Hands shared that there are things being worked on from a Cabinet/District level; they are reviewing a lot of policies and it is a great opportunity to think about these policies from an equity lens.
- d) Congratulations to Dr. O'Connor and the campus; today the FTES/FTEF targets were approved.
- e) There are a lot of discussions in preparation for the Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign. There is a lot that goes into that work; the colleges were able to get our own contract with CCS and in the process of finalizing what are "asks" are going to be for the College. We have encouraged everyone to be a part of this process through surveys and some upcoming focus groups.
- f) The SDICCCA CEOs meeting once a month and on the recent agenda item was inquiring on if any colleges have had any ICE activity on their campus; no one from our district areas reported any incidents (there have been false alerts). In conversations with operational leadership and Director of ICE – they have told several presidents within our region that they have no intention of showing up on college campuses. Mesa College will still be holding table top exercises and activities to ensure that we can enact our policies should something occur.
- g) Congresswoman Sara Jacobs will be visiting the campus to present a certificate in honor of Mesa College receiving the Black-Serving Institute designation.
- h) A meeting is set for continued discussions with the COO of YMCA to explore opportunities to provide childcare services for or parenting students during evening classes when our childcare facility is closed.
- i) We have had a meeting with Manpower to pursue a partnership to provide job-placement for students.
- j) Conversations are being held about the World Arts Collection serving as the anchor for the downtown revitalization project. It is in the land acquisition process which could last between six months to two years.
- k) Ashanti and other Mesa staff are advocating for Measure HH funding in meeting the needs of Mesa College and hope to hear the final word in April.
- l) HACU 2026 will be held in San Diego in Chula Vista at the Gaylord Resort and Hotel, October 31 – November 3, 2026. The deadline to submit presentations is Friday, March 6. There will be opportunities for us to volunteer and provide recommendations for entertainment and other activities.

Ashanti Hands, President

Link to the HACU Toolkit

[https://my.hacu.net/images/hacu/conf/40AC/40thAC\\_HAC\\_Toolkit-.pdf](https://my.hacu.net/images/hacu/conf/40AC/40thAC_HAC_Toolkit-.pdf)

### 3) STANDING REPORTS – GOVERNANCE

a) Associated Students: Associated Student representative, Alexis Han, provided the following updates:  
1) AS voted in the new Senate members; they have more Senators now than last semester.  
2) AS is planning a Student Leadership Training Initiative so that all of the Senators are knowledgeable of the rules of AS and resources.  
3) AS is holding a Leadership Awareness Week and Welcome Week.

Alexis Han, AS Representative

b) Classified Senate: Classified Senate President, Ayana Woods, shared the following updates:  
1) Classified Awards will be held on May 20, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. They have contacted awardees and will be reaching out to the supervisors of the long-term service employees for a message for their classified professional.  
2) New Classified Institute: Approved to present at the Classified Leadership Institute, which is the statewide Classified Senate. They will present on the Mesa College NCI and will encourage other colleges to create this orientation.  
3) On April 24, 2026, the statewide California Community Classified Senate will be hosting a “gathering of the Senates” for the southern region at Mesa College.

Ayana Woods, President

c) Academic Senate: Academic Senate President, Mary Gwin, shared the following updates:  
1) AS met on February 23, 2026; President Hands attended this meeting and spoke regarding general concerns that the executive committee put together, which included the budget, safety, and faculty morale, and working together to find resolutions. AS would like to work toward faculty participation in the budget processes in order to comply with Title V, section 53200 of the Ed. Code.  
2) Two resolutions were passed at their business meeting:  
1) Supporting Faculty Purview over LLMs (Large Language Model) in a Learning Environment  
2) Request for Mesa College and District Contracts Related to AI

Mary Gwin, President

### 4) INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

Mesa Distance Education (DE) Committee: Presentation included Who’s who on DE, DE Course Success Rate Trend, Equity Gap Analysis, AI impact on DE, Humanizing Strategies, and tools.

Katie Palacios, Instructional Designer  
Kim Lacher, English Professor | Co-Chair, DE Committee  
DE Committee Presentation:

[https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/Mesa\\_DE\\_Committee\\_Report\\_Pcab\\_3-3-26.pdf](https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/Mesa_DE_Committee_Report_Pcab_3-3-26.pdf)

AI Update: Humans in the Loop – Presentation included Dr. Gurganus’ service at Mesa College, SDCCD Institutional Innovation and Effectiveness, and Special Advisor to CCCC on AI. Information was given on having AI literacy skills, the new digital divide, InnovAltion Day on March 20, 2026, collaborations, and professional developments.

Alison Gurganus, Librarian, Online and Library Services  
Humans in the Loop: AI Literacy, Equity, and Support  
Presentation:

[https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/Humans\\_Loop\\_AI\\_Literacy\\_Equity\\_Support\\_Pcab\\_3-3-26.pdf](https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/Humans_Loop_AI_Literacy_Equity_Support_Pcab_3-3-26.pdf)

### 5) OPERATIONS

a) Instructional Updates: Vice President of Instruction, Isabel O'Connor, shared the following updates:  
1) We are now at 5,999.7 FTES and have surpassed our target.  
2) Summer/Fall scheduling are in full swing. They are observing the impact of changes such as the new attendance accounting method will have on the FTES generation for next year.  
3) Dr. O'Connor is reviewing several bills that were just introduced that need feedback. Yesterday she met with one of the assemblyman who is proposing some interesting things about how we teach political science.

b) Student Services Updates: Vice President of Student Services, Larry Maxey, shared the following updates:  
1) The Chancellor sent a memo to the community colleges a few weeks ago requiring changes that required ed planning; it encourages students to get to a program of study with either an abbreviated or comprehensive ed plan provided within the first of their enrollment. They vetted it to the equity plan as part of equity work; student services is looking at opportunities to be more creative in how we support our students to get ed plans. The recommended counselor to student ratio is 340 students to 1 counselor. Mesa's ratio is currently about 840 to 1 counselor. There are also difficulties around our evaluation processes and the length of time that is required. Student Services is looking at opportunities within PeopleSoft to communicate with students and allow them to see their ed plans more clearly and make changes and apply for graduation. The Transfer Center is also looking at specific outreach to disproportionately impacted students to make sure that they are aware of processes. Also, they are looking at other ways to support students; currently our orientation is being updated and a part of that process is students meet with a counselor and receive an ed plan. This is going to be a long-term issue and there is no simple fix as it relates in working with the District and three colleges but they are going to do their best in order to meet the mandates of this particular memo.  
2) KUP (Kapwa, Umoja, Puente) Center (1400 building) is working with Alessandra to provide some murals for their space and provide cultural artwork. There will be a summer project.

c) Administrative Services Updates: Vice President of Administrative Services, Lorenze Legaspi, shared the following updates:  
1) VPA Lorenze Legaspi announced that after eight years at San Diego Mesa College he will be leaving for a professional growth opportunity.  
2) Budget Allocation Recommendation Committee (BARC) First Reading: VPA Lorenze Legaspi presented the BARC process and provided the first reading of the ranked list where those in green are approved, and items listed in yellow are possible considerations if items in green are determined to be ineligible. Second reading will be held at the 3/17/26 President's Cabinet where the list will then be forwarded to the President for final review before applicants are notified. The BARC scoring list was provided in a separate document in PDF format.

Isabel O'Connor, VPI

Larry Maxey, VPSS

Lorenze Legaspi, VPA  
Budget Allocation Recommendation Committee – First reading:

[https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/documents/BARC\\_first\\_reading\\_Pcab\\_3-3-26.pdf](https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/documents/BARC_first_reading_Pcab_3-3-26.pdf)

BARC Scoring 2026

[https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/BARC\\_2026\\_Scoring\\_3-3-26.pdf](https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/BARC_2026_Scoring_3-3-26.pdf)

Jacqueline Collins, Dir., College Fac/Operations  
San Diego Mesa College Safety Webpage Link:  
<https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/admin-services/safety/index.shtml>

Safety Website Demo: Director Collins showed the Mesa College Safety webpage onscreen and how to navigate to different sections such as safety training and how to report a safety concern, and emergency management

d) Institutional Effectiveness Updates: Dean Hai Hoang presented updates for Program Review, Roadmap 2, COA, and PIEC.

e) Mesa Comprehensive Campaign: Director Stellmacher asked for all to sign up for one of the learning focus groups by this Friday. The groups will discuss where Mesa College should be directing our philanthropic efforts. Districtwide we are embarking on a comprehensive fundraising campaign that is hoping to bring in high net worth donors and the focus groups will provide the information on the priorities.

Hai Hoang, Dean, Institution Effectiveness  
IE Presentation:

[https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/IE\\_Update\\_Pcab\\_3-3-26.pdf](https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/IE_Update_Pcab_3-3-26.pdf)

Krista Stellmacher, Dir., Dev. / Entrepreneurship

All-Campus Events:

Chancellor's Forum at Mesa College: Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m., MC 211 A/B  
Spring Break, March 30 – April 3, 2026

Mesa College Scholarship Awards: Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 4:30 p.m. Check-In, Mesa Gym

Honors Celebration, Thursday, April 30, 2026: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., D-101

Raza Graduation, Friday, May 1, 2026, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Mesa Quad

DSPS Graduation Ceremony, Tuesday, May 5, 2026: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., LRAS 110

Speech & Debate Showcase, Tuesday, May 5, 2026: 5:00 -7:00 p.m., G-101

Veterans' Recognition Ceremony, Wednesday, May 6, 2026: 4:30 – 7:00 p.m., MC 211 A/B

Mesa Research Conference: Friday, May 8, 2026: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., M+S building

Rite of Passage: Monday, May 11, 2026, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., City College, A Patio

EOPS & Special Programs, Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m., Quad

Transfer Recognition Luncheon: Thursday, May 14, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., MC 211 A/B

AAPI Recognition Ceremony: Friday, May 15, 2026, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Mesa Quad

Lavender Celebration: Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 5:00 p.m., D-101

Classified Service Awards: Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., MC 211 A/B

Golden Scissors Fashion Show, Friday, May 22, 2026, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m., Mesa Quad

PTA Pinning Ceremony: Friday, May 22, 2026, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., MC 211 A/B

SD Mesa College Commencement, Friday, May 29, 2026, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Merrill Douglas Stadium

Proposed Classiccon, June 2 – 4, 2026, UnSung Hero and Luncheon on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., MC 211 A/B

**Spring 2026 Semester Pcab Meetings: 2/3, 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 4/7, 4/21, 5/5 Pcab Retreat, 5/19**

\*Institutional Committees / Special Reports / Spotlight:

2/3/26: Veterans' & Records Department & Veterans Success Center (J. Agricola)

2/17/26:

3/3/26: Mesa DE Committee (K. Palacios; K. Lacher); AI Update (A. Gurganus); BARC first reading (L. Legaspi)

3/17/26: FHP First Reading (I. O'Connor); Real College (L. Maxey); BARC second reading (L. Legaspi); Proposed: ACCJC 7-Year (H. Hoang)

4/7/26: FHP Second Reading (I. O'Connor); Sustainability (W. Ray); Roadmap Roadshow first reading (H. Hoang; L. Legaspi)

4/21/26: ESC Update (M. Rodriguez); CDAIE (J. Villalobos); Roadmap Roadshow second reading (H. Hoang; L. Legaspi)

5/5/26: President's Cabinet Retreat: 2:15 – 5:00 p.m.

5/19/26: End-of-Semester Operations Updates: CEL Presentation (J. Johnson)

Note: The President's Cabinet full agendas with notes will be processed following each meeting and posted on the President's at: <https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/cabinet-documents.shtml>