

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

President's Cabinet

September 2, 2025 | 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 the following updates:

1) The Convocation presentation is posted on the President's webpage and includes the slides, links to the executive goals / highlights, and fundraising survey. A Convocation survey will also be sent and all are encouraged to participate and provide feedback.

2) RE: the Chancellor's response to Academic Senate President Mary Gwin's ACCJC presentation. The Chancellor acknowledged the work of San Diego Mesa College and how our College came together to respond to requirements on our accreditation. Dr. Hands shared that the accreditation follow-up report that has been prepared shows what we have done and all of the levels of involvement of the process. We have now developed a very good process which includes how we provide clarity and make sure that what we have listed is what students are actually seeing, and that we are accessing and determining how we can do better. This speaks to the power and potential of who we are as a College. Dr. Hands stated she looks forward to celebrating once we get the full accreditation.

3) A Partnership Resource Team (PRT) in support of the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative through California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, will be holding its first visit to San Diego Mesa College on Monday, September 15, 2025. Mesa College applied for an IEPI grant with the focus on adult learners, in particular our Latinx students. Some of the high level areas of focus: data-driven decision making, enhancing instructional offerings with employers in industry, systems and process improvements for adult learners, optimizing and prioritizing support services for adult learners and student parents, and marking/outreach. On September 11, 2025, a prep meeting will be held so that all involved understands what we are doing – what the "why" is; September 15, 2025 is the all-day visit with different focus groups. The PRT will work with our staff to develop an innovation and effectiveness plan. The second visit will be in December, and in spring 2026, we launch our plan. Dr. Hands acknowledged Alex Berry for his and his team's work; this is a college effort and will take all of us to create and be responsible for this plan.

4) Assembly Bills Updates:
California Assembly Bill (AB) 423: will allow us to use Work-based Learning / Strong Workforce dollars to

Ashanti Hands, President

Fall 2025 Semester Convocation Presentations:
<https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/convocation-documents.shtml>

<p>support and fund our internship with Strong Workforce programs.</p> <p>AB 1400: Nursing Baccalaureate project - The bill was amended to decrease the number of colleges in the pilot from 15 to 10. SDCCD did not qualify to be part of the pilot (MiraCosta and Palomar did qualify). This bill addresses the duplication issue with CSUs.</p> <p>AB 90: Overnight safe parking lot pilot: This bill did not move forward in appropriations. Dr. Hands stated that this bill came with no funding and there would need to be a lot of money to go into securing parking which should be considered for securing housing for our students.</p> <p>5) HSI Grants: Our State Chancellor has provided some information that a lawsuit was filed challenging HSI and that the Federal government decided they are not going to defend those charges. HACU has stated that they would defend but it is not known if that is accepted or not. There are a lot of concerns about what is going to happen with our programs; our District has \$3.4 million in HSI grants; our campus has a HSI grant. SDICCCA posted a press conference last week at Southwestern College and had representatives from our district, our region, the Assembly, and business owners that advocated for the support of our HSI programs. SDCCD has stated we will ensure that our HSI programs will be able to exist as they are for at least this year should the funding not come through. If that occurs, we will use that time to strategize. There are also concerns with MSI (Minority-serving Institutions) and AANAPISI.</p>	
3) STANDING REPORTS – GOVERNANCE	
<p>a) Associated Students: AS President Jeremiah Palomino shared the following updates:</p> <p>a) AS held a retreat where several As Senators attended; they are working on filling the remaining open executive officers positions. The Secretary position was appointed.</p> <p>b) During Welcome Week AS held a “pop in for popcorn” event.</p> <p>c) AS applications are due Monday, September 8, 2025.</p>	<p>Jeremiah Palomino, President</p>
<p>b) Classified Senate: CS President Ayana Woods shared the following updates:</p> <p>a) CS held a district-wide meeting with all of the Senates attending from SDCCD and discussed issues and plans for this academic year.</p> <p>b) CS first meeting will be held this Thursday, September 4, 2025, 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>c) CS excited for the final Classified Professionals contract.</p>	<p>Ayana Woods, President</p>

<p>c) Academic Senate: AS President Mary Gwin shared the following updates:</p> <p>a) AS will hold a retreat this Friday, September 8, 2025 with some old and new business on the agenda.</p> <p>b) AS first meeting will be held Monday, September 15, 2025.</p>	<p>Mary Gwin, President</p>
4) INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS	
<p>a) 25-28 Student Equity Plan – First Reading. Deans Cynthia Rico and Leticia Diaz presented the 2025-2028 first reading of the Student Equity Plan. The second reading will be held at the 9/16/25 President’s Cabinet meeting.</p> <p>b) Enrollment Management Committee – First Reading: Vice President Isabel O’Connor shared that Michael Harrison will now be the co-Chair of the Enrollment Management Committee. This proposed changes to the Enrollment Management Committee roster are highlighted in yellow and sent for campus review with a second reading scheduled for 9/16/25.</p>	<p>Cynthia Rico, Dean Student Development Leticia Diaz, Dean, Student Success and Equity</p> <p>Student Equity Plan 2025 – 2028 and Executive Summary: https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/Mesa_Equity_Plan_and_Executive_Summary_2025-2028_Pcab_9-2-25.pdf</p> <p>Student Equity Plan 2025 – 2028: https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/Student_Equity_Plan_2025-2028_Pcab_9-2-25.pdf</p> <p>Isabel O’Connor, Vice President, Instruction Michael Harrison, Assistant Chair, Languages Tara Hardee Teodoro, Dean, Instruction Donna Budzynski, Co-Chair Enrollment Mngt. Comm.</p> <p>Enrollment Management Committee Participatory Governance Group – Proposed Roster Revisions: https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/Proposed_Enrollment_Management_Roster_Pcab-9-2-25.pdf</p>
5) OPERATIONS	
<p>a) Instructional Updates: Isabel O’Connor, Vice President of Instruction, shared the following updates:</p> <p>1) Enrollment is going well; Mesa College is almost 105% of our FTES goal for the fall semester; Isabel noted that the district made an effort to invest in technologies that have proven efficient across the State. The efficiency is at 60.3; headcount is almost 22,000.</p> <p>2) There is a lot of student demand in some areas; if we had more science labs, we would have more science courses (we currently do not have the space for those labs). In other areas, the demand cannot be met because we do not have enough faculty. Isabel has asked Dean Rico to share what she is hearing from the counselors; and it is good to hear from faculty what they are hearing about demand for courses.</p> <p>3) The Work-based Learning newsletter came out; there is a lot of activity on this campus and why we are the</p>	<p>Isabel O’Connor, VPI</p>

leaders at the State level – career-preparation, work-based learning opportunities are critical for student success. We have embedded work-based learning coordinators/liaisons in every academic school and that has work very well.

4) AB 1400: Bachelor's Nursing Pilot. Isabel will meet with CCCCO Vice Chancellor, James Todd (Academic Affairs, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office). As President of CCCCIO (California Community Colleges Chief Instructional Officers), Isabel stated they sent a letter of support for AB 1400. The pilot colleges were reduced from 15 to 10; there are still a lot of issues to be decided with the CSUs. The State Chancellor's Office this morning has asked for others to send letters of support; Isabel has a model of that letter.

5) Dean Cassandra Storey asked VPI O'Connor to share that we have established a partnership with Point Loma Nazarene University for accelerated undergraduate programs for child development. Mesa students can complete their courses here and then finish their degree at Point Loma. The first cohort started September 2.

Another partnership that is in the early stages is National University in establishing a MOU so that our HIMS bachelor's degrees students can transfer for a graduate level degree at National University. This would include advantages such as tuition reduction of 25%.

6) Dean Romero – Fashion 110 students will participate in the merchandizing process for the Del Mar Breeders' Cup.

7) VPI O'Connor congratulated our AANAPISI Program Activity Manager, Leland Simpliciano, as one of the recipients of the National Pacific Islander Educator Network (NPIEN) Educator Awards.

8) On September 9, there is an opportunity to see Oscar the steer before he is moved to a Los Angeles facility.

b) Student Services Updates: Larry Maxey, Vice President of Student Services, shared the following updates:

1) Last Thursday, the Board of Trustees approved the contract for Timely Care, a virtual care provider that has mental health resources such as telehealth and basic needs support for our students. The timeline for this program is moving fast, which led to communication that was not clear on how this program would be adopted into our program and services. VPSS Maxey apologized to Johanna, Derrick, Vicki, and Suzanne for this not being communicated as quickly as it should have been. Timely Care will not replace any staff but rather be a supplement to what we can provide and we can market it any way we want (such as after-hours / weekend support). VPSS Maxey asked that collectively all work together to find how this can benefit our students.

2) Tech Hub – partnership with District IT and Mesa Admissions Office: Ivonne Alvarez and Cynthia Rico

Larry Maxey, VPSS

asked IT what can they do to support our students in the first weeks of the semester to log into their classes and other challenges students have. IT responded with setting up Tech Hubs; over the course of this last week through today they have served 211 students – 46 were served over the summer and 45% were related to MFA. This has been a successful collaboration and VPSS Maxey thanked Dean Rico, Director Alvarez, and Director David Fierro.

3) Transfer agreements: Anne Hedekin in the Transfer Center is gathering information to communicate with students about the guarantee transfer opportunity at SDSU. They are also working on a partnership with Sacramento State as well as National University.

4) Larry and Ashanti provided the welcome to the Borderless Scholars event to provide encouragement and let the students know we are committed to helping them in these difficult circumstance that we are in currently.

c) Administrative Services Updates: Lorenze Legaspi, Vice President of Administrative Services, shared the following updates:

1) Budget: We do have the Covid Block grant and enrollment retention funds that were received in 2023; those funds will be ending this year (these funds have already been allocated). There is a new Block grant from the State – the student support Block grant – this is \$60 million given state-wide which has not yet been allocated to specific organizations or our District and then to us as a college.

2) Other funding: there are Student-Centered Funding Formula funds for this year. A more indepth budget presentation will be given at the September 16 President's Cabinet meeting after the SDCCD adopted budget goes to the board on September 11, 2025.

3) Measure HH: Design-build entities (the architects and construction managers that were hired together.) Mesa College has two large projects: Athletic Complex, Performing Arts Center / Administration building along with a new parking structure. The design-build entities will be going to board on September 11, 2025, and then Kickoff meetings will be held: one for the Athletics area (Sept. 17), Performing Arts/Administration (Sept. 24). More information to come specifically for the end-users within those programs.

Current construction on campus is the road closure for the storm drain by lots 7-8 and 1 (C building area). The road will be closed September 26, and October 3 – there will be signage but during this time it will not be possible to drive through those areas. Information on this will be sent to the campus.

4) Mesa2030: Roadmap part two – a callout was made to participants; they now have the dates and times established for the semester to get more representation

Lorenze Legaspi, VPA

across campus. The goal is to close our Mesa2030 by creating strategic objectives that are focused, measurable, scalable, and tell our story.

5) Contract Hiring Process: A plan is almost complete and will be brought to President's Cabinet with recommendations. The plan centers around four main areas: Data-informed recruitment (to specifically unify and optimize job postings), equity-focused interviews, expand equity focus of our questions, incorporate reflective prompts for applicants, intentional teaching demonstrations and presentations, transparent rubrics that link the presentations to competencies, chair and applicant support (such as standardize timelines), and applicant frequent-asked questions.

6) The café in MC is closed today; there are some refrigeration issues.

d) Institutional Effectiveness: Acting Dean of IE, Nancy Cortés, and Program Review / Outcomes Assessment Coordinator, Liza Rabinovich, presented an Institutional Effectiveness update document which includes links to the ACCJC slides presented at the Fall 2025 Convocation, Program Review and Outcomes Assessment Kick-Off, and live training schedule for Program Review and Outcomes Assessment. Also included is the update for ACCJC Compliance with a report writing timeline.

e) Mesa Comprehensive Campaign: Krista Stellmacher, Director of Development and Entrepreneurship, shared The Mesa Comprehensive Campaign presentation which included a link to the "share your perspective" survey (link on page 8).

Nancy Cortés, Acting Dean, IE
Liza Rabinovich, Program Review / Outcomes Assessment

Institutional Effectiveness Update:

https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/IE_Update_Pcab_9-2-25-Handout.pdf

Krista Stellmacher, Director, Development and Entrepreneurship

Mesa Comprehensive Campaign (survey link on slide 8):

https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/Fundraising_Mesa_Comprehensive_Campaign_Pcab_9-2-25_Optimized.pdf

All-Campus Events:

Chancellor's Forum: Tuesday, September 30, 2025, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m., MC 211 A/B

Homecoming Week: October 20-25, 2025, Game 10/25/25 6:00 p.m., Merrill Douglas Stadium

BOT Meeting at Mesa College: Thursday, November 13, 2025: Campus presentation 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., Regular meeting 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Holiday Reception: Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., MC 211 A/B

Fall 2025 Semester Pcab Meetings: 9/2, 9/16, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18 (Pcab Retreat), 12/2, 12/16

*Institutional Committees / Special Reports / Spotlight:

9/2/25: Student Equity Plan first reading (C. Rico, L. Diaz); Enrollment Management Committee first reading (I. O'Connor, M. Harrison, T. Hardee Teodoro, D. Budzynski)

9/16/24: Study Equity Plan second reading (C. Rico, L. Diaz); Enrollment Management Committee second reading (I. O'Connor, M. Harrison, T. Hardee Teodoro, D. Budzynski); AANAPISI update (L. Simpliciano)

10/7/25: BARC (L. Legaspi); HSI Updates (T. Parsons)

10/21/25: Pathway to Law Wrap-Up (M. Rodriguez); Mesa Technology Plan – first reading (D. Fierro)

11/4/25: Basic Needs (J. Aleman)

11/18/25: Presidents Cabinet Retreat at North City Campus (Aero Drive – 2:15 – 5:00 p.m.)

12/2/25: Mesa Technology Plan – second reading (D. Fierro)

12/16/25: End-of-Semester Operations Updates

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>