

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

President's Cabinet

February 17, 2026 | 2:15 – 3:45 p.m. | LRC 435

1) CALL TO ORDER: Ashanti Hands, President

2) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

a) District and Campus Updates: President Ashanti T. Hands gave the following updates:

1) Last week we received notification that San Diego Mesa College was approved for a second baccalaureate degree – Physical Therapy Assistant. This degree will cost less than \$11,000 for students and meets standards for job openings in this area. Thank you to Dr. O'Connor, Dean Storey, Shelly Hess, Hai Hoang, Professors Gail Bachman, Amanda Johnston for their incredible vision.

2) Dr. Hands recognized the work-based learning teams: Alex Berry, Shawn Fawcett, Pavel Consuegra, and Michael Lettieri for his grant-writing skills for positioning us to be selected to receive \$399,000 for career-connected futures project for Latina adult learners. This aligns with the work we are doing for the PRT/IEPI grant for adult learners.

3) Dr. Hands recognized Associated Student President Jeremiah Palomino who has been traveling and advocating in Sacramento and Washington D.C., where they were able to speak to Scott Peters, Sarah Jacobs, and Juan Vargas as part of the National Legislative Summit for Community Colleges and this time they were paired with a trustee and an AS president.

4) An ACCJC Accreditation Celebration will be held on Thursday, February 24, 2026, 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. in A-104.

5) Chancellor's Town Hall will be held this Thursday at Miramar College and is also available to view via Zoom the focus will be on support for black students and black-serving institutions.

6) Ashanti shared that this is Black History Month, lunar new year and on February 25, 11a – 1p on the Quad will be a Resource Fair.

7) An article on the house research brief which is about smoothing the path to bachelor's degrees, exploring growth, student satisfaction, and racial equity in California community colleges. The data was compiled by Dean Hai Hoang.

Ashanti Hands, President

Chancellor's Office Notification on Baccalaureate Degree Programs:

<https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Educational-Services-and-Support/What-we-do/Curriculum-and-Instruction-Unit/Curriculum/Baccalaureate-Degree-Program>

3) STANDING REPORTS – GOVERNANCE

a) Associated Students: Tonya Trusova, AS Treasurer, gave the following updates:

1) The first AS meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

2) AS is excited to be welcoming new student leaders and continuing efforts to advocate for the student body.

3) AS Senator applications are still open; the deadline is this Thursday. Students must complete the requirement of getting 100 signatures from the student body by Monday, February 23.

4) AS leaders are available to come to classes to promote AS.

Tonya Trusova, AS Treasurer

b) Classified Senate: Ayana Woods, CS President, gave the following updates:

1) Thank you for all who participated in the Valentine's Fundraiser that raised over \$800.

Ayana Woods, President

2) Coming soon: T-Shirt Design contest. Winner gets a free t-shirt. The shirt will be sold to classified professionals.	
c) Academic Senate: Mary Gwin, AS President, gave the following updates: 1) The AS Executive meeting met on February 9. Dr. Hands will be attending the February 23rd meeting. 2) AS voted on two resolutions, including AI use in District. 3) Thank you to Nicole Roesler, Director, Administrative Services, for the new streamlined process for honoraria and guest speakers/lecturers. 4) A reminder for anyone and chairs of committees that the Academic Senate appoints faculty to campus and district committees, task forces, etc. At SD Mesa College, the chair of the committee sends a list of the faculty to the AS Vice President (Veronica Gerace) who presents the information to the Senate Committee on Committees for approval. (this process is per the Ed. Code).	Mary Gwin, President
4) OPERATIONS	
a) Instructional Updates: Vice President of Instruction, Isabel O'Connor, gave the following updates: 1) Excited about the new opportunities that open with the new baccalaureate degree and additional funding. It highlights that a big part of the instructional administrators, especially the Deans, play a pivotal role in moving a lot of these initiatives. 2) Enrollment is very good for the spring semester; however we are hearing about some bots registrations appearing. 3) Dr. O'Connor stated she is thankful for Tara Hardee Teodoro who covers analysis of data is researching the patterns of students dropping courses. The time that we closed registration to census we lost 100 FTES, which could be attributed to bots or natural progression of student movement patterns. 4) Instruction is in the process of scheduling for summer and fall; the Deans have their allocations and working on the scheduling pieces; the allocation will be official in two weeks. 5) Dr. O'Connor attended the State of CTE event his morning which gave a panoramic view of what CTE brings to the district and region. b) Student Services Updates: Vice President of Student Services, Larry Maxey and Dean Leticia Diaz shared information on "Timelycare", a virtual mental health and health services for our students' well-being platform that is available 24/7 for San Diego Mesa College students. Dean Vicki Miller shared that she and Derrick White have introduced Timelycare to various departments; they are available to present at additional departments. Dean Miller stated that virtual care is a great resource but is not to be used when there is an imminent threat at which police should be called. A Practice Self-Love – prioritizing your wellness as part of Timelycare will select a monthly winner for a \$250 per college Amazon gift card. To enter, students sign up for free 24/7 telehealth and mental health services at TimelyCare.com. c) Administrative Services Updates: Vice President of Administrative Services, Lorenze Legaspi, gave the following updates:	Isabel O'Connor, VPI Larry Maxey, VPSS Chancellor's Office Notification on Baccalaureate Degree Programs: https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Educational-Services-and-Support/What-we-do/Curriculum-and-Instruction-Unit/Curriculum/Baccalaureate-Degree-Program Lorenze Legaspi, VPA

- 1) The year-end deadline was sent via email for those doing purchasing this time of year or procurement.
- 2) Also sent via email is the Guest Speaker/Lecturer Honorarium contracts. There are three different tracks: one for free speakers, no payments; speakers paid under \$1,000 and speakers paid over \$1,000.
- 3) Lorenze will attend the Associate Students meeting tomorrow to present about immigration enforcement information.
- 4) Measure HH Updates: The baseball homerun netting will be installed.

President Ashanti Hands added that the HH student focus groups to help construction design from a student perspective were held for performing arts and for athletics at which 150 student athletes attended.

d) Institutional Effectiveness: Dean Hai Hoang presented updates for Program Review, Roadmap 2, COA, and PIEC which included the ACCJC 7-year structure.

Hai Hoang, Dean, IE

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All-Campus Events:

SDCCD Town Hall Chancellor Smith, Thursday, February 19, 2026, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Miramar, L-105
 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
 Rite of Passage: Monday, May 11, 2026, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., City College
 Lavender Celebration: Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 5:00 p.m., D-101
 PTA Pinning Ceremony: Friday, May 22, 2026, 5:00 p.m., Location TBD
 Proposed Classiccon, June 2 – 4, 2026

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)

3/17/26: FHP First Reading (I. O'Connor); Real College (L. Maxey); Proposed: Roadmap Roadshow first reading (H. Hoang; L. Legaspi)

4/7/26: FHP Second Reading (I. O'Connor); Sustainability (W. Ray)

4/21/26: ESC Update (M. Rodriguez); CDAIE (J. Villalobos)

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); Proposed: Roadmap Roadshow second reading (H. Hoang; L. Legaspi)

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>