

**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE (SDMC)**

**ACADEMIC SENATE (AS)**  
**February 23, 2026**  
**Room MC 211 A/B**  
**2:20PM – 4:20PM**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:**

Academic Senate President Mary Gwin, Carlyne Allbee, Isaac Arguelles-Ibarra, Thomas Babin, Henry Browne, Katlin Choi, Jennifer Cost, Nellie Dougherty, Ian Duckles, Justin Estep, Erin Evans, Andrew Hoffman, Alex Holowicki, Geoff Johnson, Dante Jones, Jesse Keller, Wendell Kling, Mariam Kushkaki, Sam Lee, Jonathan (Jon) Linton, David Lizarraga, Thekima Mayasa, Danica Moore, Ryan Mongelluzzo, Roger "Rusty" Nichols, Edeama Onwuchekwa Jonah, Mychal Odom, Miriam Pacheco, Scott Plambek, Anthony Reuss, Michelle Rodriguez, Jessica Sardo, Irena Stojimirovic, Scott Suarez, Ngoc "Kim" Tran, Richard Unis, Megan Villa, Karen Wait, Michael Williams and Guests SDMC President Ashanti Hands, PTK President David Merino and Incoming PTK President Jasmin Fathi

**Absent:**

Jennifer Frost Moreno (Proxy to Gabriela Kovats), Veronica Gerace (Excused), James Hinton, Laura Maki, Dave "Das" Odasso (Excused), and Louis Valenzuela

**I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME** by President Mary Gwin:

Parliamentarian – TBD /Timekeeper – TBD/Speaker Coordinator – TBD

**II. APPROVAL OF DRAFT AGENDA:**

Move to Approve with Guest President Hands moved to item III:

**M/S** Johnson/Sardo

**UNANIMOUS**

Frost Moreno

(Proxy to Kovats)

**III. GUEST(s):**

**A. SDMC President Ashanti Hands:**

1. SDMC's Accreditation Reaffirmed!: Celebration – Thursday (February 26<sup>th</sup>) President's Office – Room A104 (12:30PM – 3:00PM)
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> SDMC Baccalaureate Degree Approved!: Physical Therapy Assistant (1<sup>st</sup> Baccalaureate – Health Information Management)
3. SDMC Received – Black-Serving Institution (BSI) Designation in January 2026: California Senate Bill (SB) 1348
  - a. "California Enacts Nation's First Black-Serving Institution Designation":
4. SDMC received a \$400,000.00 grant for Latin X Adult Learners.
5. We have resources available for **all** our Students.
6. We have additional funding in the works.
7. Please let me know what you are currently excited about at SDMC.
8. We need to maintain the SDMC Community Members' level of morale:
  - a. We are doing important work that helps our Students change their lives.
9. Campus Safety: There are different levels of responsibilities at the district level versus at the campus level.
  - a. The Vice President of Administrative Services (VPA) and the School Deans are working through scheduling Safety Training sessions for their personnel.
10. Budget Transparency:
  - a. We are digging deeper into the process.
  - b. We are recovering from to loss of (2) two vital long standing members of the SDMC Business Office.
  - c. We are developing a process for sharing budgetary information.
  - d. We can all participate in the creation of a process for sharing SDMC budget information.
11. Comments from the Senators:
  - a. Carlyne Allbee reported all but (1) one of the Radiology Technicians she had on her healthcare journey received their training at SDMC. (The work SDMC does reaches our community members.)
  - b. Jennifer Cost expressed the need to institutionalize Proposition 55 funding that sunseting.
    - "California Proposition 55: Taxes, Funding, and Expiration"
  - c. Danica Moore and Irena Stojimirovic expressed concerns about the impact of the loss of Hispanic Serving Institutions and grant funding on SDMC programs.
  - d. Irena Stojimirovic said the district's Faculty Salary Scale remains low compared to other districts.
    - President Hands said unfortunately, the Salary Scale can only be changed through the Collective Bargaining Process.

**IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** None

- A. Associated Student Government (ASG):** Senator Nicole Rodriguez & Senator Jay Tarvin  
**B. Classified Professionals:** President Ayana Woods & Vice President Alison Mona

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**A. Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) President David Merin & Incoming President Jasmin Fathi:**

**Congratulations to David on your acceptance to UC Berkeley!!!**

As reported by Jasmin Fathi:

"David introduces Jasmin as the new President of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society: The only officially recognized international honor society for 2-year colleges

Last cycle...

- added over 60 new high-achieving members in 2025/2026

- volunteered at a donation distribution in October for victims of LA Wildfires

- volunteered to distribute community donations to San Diego Flood Victims

- Partnered with Mesa Honors for a "Honorween" event

This semester...

- "Mesa to Ivy" workshop

- Induction ceremony on **April 10 in G-101!** Everyone is invited to help celebrate our new members."

**B. SDMC Professor Ian Duckles:**

1. Ian Duckles made a public comment.

**VI. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES:** December 1, 2025

Move to Approve:

**M/S**

**31 Approve**

Frost Moreno  
(Proxy to Kovats)

**5 Abstain**

Babin  
Johnson  
Keller  
Linton  
Villa

**VII. REPORTS:**

**A. Committee Reports:**

1. Senate Executive Committees:

- a. *Academic Affairs (AA) Committee:* Chair Dave "DAS" Odasso (No Report)
- b. *Professional Advancement Committee (PAC):* Chair Andrew Hoffman
  - February 18<sup>th</sup> - Reports of Completion - Fall 2025 Sabbaticals Leaves
  - The committee will review the 2026-2027 Sabbatical applications on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- c. *Committee of Chairs (COC):* Chair of Chairs Ian Duckles (No Report)
- d. *Curriculum Review Committee (CRC):* Faculty Co-Chair Justin Estep
  - Justin provided a report.
- e. *Program Review Steering Committee (PRSC):* Faculty Co-Chair – TBA (No Report)
- f. *The Committee for Diversity Action, Inclusion & Equity (CDAIE):* Chair Edeama Jonah ((DEIA@Mesa)
  - Edeama provided a report.
- g. *SDMC AS Task Force on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI):* Chair Ryan/Mongelluzzo (No Report)
- h. *Other Committee Reports:* Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) Michelle Rodriguez
  - Michelle provided a report.

2. Senate Executive Officer Reports:

- a. *Vice President:* Veronica Gerace (No Report) (Faculty Committee Service) (Committee Service)
- b. *Secretary:* Katlin Choi (No Report)
- c. *Treasurer:* Thekima Mayasa
  - Thekima provided a report.
- d. Senator at Large #1: Ryan Mongelluzzo (No Report)
- e. Senator at Large #2: Irena Stojimirovic (No Report)
- f. *CTE Liaison:* Vacant
- g. *Immediate Past President:* Andrew Hoffman (No Report)

h. *President:* Mary Gwin

As reported by Mary Gwin:

"President Mary Gwin reported on upcoming elections and the status of recent budget and safety inquiries."

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:** None

**IX. OLD BUSINESS:** **Second Readings**

**A. Resolution 2025.12.1 - Supporting Faculty Purview over LLMs in the Learning Environment:** Kushkaki

1. Miriam Kushkaki reported there has already been more than 20 emails from the district supporting the use of AI since J:
2. Comments from Senator Dante Jones:  
As reported by Dante Jones

"The Resolution states that faculty are being "encouraged" to use LLM's and Gen AI in their curriculum and course work institutions". That is simply untrue, there is a recognition that AI tools are affecting many people's work and there is support offered to help people with their response to said tool use. No one is encouraging anyone to use the tools. There is a plan for people to gain a bit of AI Literacy so they can discuss said use with students and colleagues and have a better understanding of their decision may or may not affect their work going forward. This response includes the decision to have no AI use in the classroom, a little use, scaffolded use or all the use. Faculty who have no understanding of LLM's have a harder time discussing with students their decisions to use or not use LLM's. These conversations are crucial and can get deep, students are often in need of informed guidance."

3. Comments from Senator Mychal Odom:

As reported by Mychal Odom:

"I responded to concerns about equity in the AI resolution by Kushkaki. My response expressed:

- Concern for inequity in the classroom and development skills
- I noted the high rate of students abusing AI, suggesting that if all of the students who used AI dishonestly were seen in student affairs (I might have said student services) that it would clog the system.
- I noted that the reliance on generative AI is creating a gap in skills development, only training students to swipe and copy point. This is the source of my concern for AI.
- I agree that some tools can help students develop skills in writing and linguistics but those are not the AI software I am concerned with."

Move to Approve:

**M/S**

Moore/Evans

**29 Approve**

Frost Moreno  
(Proxy to Kovats)

**2 Oppose**

Jones  
Onwuchekwa Jones

**5 Abstain**

Allbee  
Arguelles-Ibarra  
Estep  
Mayasa  
Wait

**B. Resolution 2025.12.2 - Request for Mesa College and District Contracts Related to AI: Evans**

1. Comments from Dante Jones:

As reported by Dante Jones:

- "Whereas #4: *"Whereas, LLMs further exacerbate equity gaps via access, digital divides, and linguistic biases, thereby going directly against Mesa College's values of equity and excellence; "*
  - There are debates on those concepts, they are not necessarily facts as they are being presented. LLM's also help close equity gaps such as, helping us with accessibility issues, assisting ELL students understand terms and concepts and assisting students with content and context presented in class as well as readings that they do not understand
- Whereas #5: *"the climate impacts of LLM usage are severe<sup>7,8</sup> and therefore not in alignment with the Mesa 2030 Comprehensive Master Plan's commitment to environmental justice"*
  - Llm's do cause climate damage but not as much as driving to work/school, or streaming a few hours of Netflix for example. Are we working on banning transit to our institution, shopping online, streaming videos, use of paper (whose production is woefully bad for our climate) or spending time on social media? All of which cause more harm to the climate at this time than AI data centers.
- Whereas #6: *despite these grave concerns, the general posture of the San Diego Community College District regarding LLM usage is one of uncritical boosterism<sup>10</sup>. The district-level promotion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) events and resources has undermined faculty who are subject-matter experts and have purview over curriculum<sup>11</sup>;*
  - How is promoting professional learning for our SDCCD community's response to AI (whatever that response may be) "uncritical boosterism"? Additionally, how is assisting people wade through the AI landscape to better understand how they want to respond to AI usage in their workplaces undermining "faculty who are subject matter experts"?
- Lastly, the *"Be it further resolved" for a faculty PD team to be created to provide "strategies and resources for decreasing or eliminating LLM usage in the learning environment when subject matter experts determine appropriate"...*
  - This is problematic, first, there is no say here on it being multidisciplinary and that the group has a make-up of those that use and do not use LLM's. This senate has a history of unbalanced representation when discussing AI in groups such as their "AI Taskforce". Not to mention, Why so unbalanced? Why are we only looking at elimination with this group? Why are we not being inclusive? Is this not the definition of inequity, to put all our effort into one side? As a senate should we not be representing the views of all of our faculty in all of our spaces?"

2. Andrew Hoffman made a Friendly Amendment: Accepted by resolution mover Jennifer Cost

Move to Approve a Friendly Amendment from Andrew Hoffman:

**M/S**

Moore/Sardo

**30 Approve**

Frost Moreno  
(Proxy to Kovats)

**2 Oppose**

Jones  
Onwuchekwa Jonah

**4 Abstain**

Allbee  
Arguelles-Ibarra  
Villa  
Wait

**XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- A. Strive to support **all** SDMC Community Members. No one is better than anyone else. The world needs a lot more GRACE & HUMILITY.
- B. 2026 SDMC Commencement Ceremony – Friday (May 29, 2026) @ 2:00PM (Douglas Stadium).
- C. The next SDMC Academic Senate meeting is March 9, 2026 from 2:20PM – 4:20PM in Room MC 211 A/B.
- D. The next Academic Affairs Committee meeting is March 2, 2026 from 4:15PM – 5:30PM in Room A 117.
- E. Committee of Chairs (CoC) Meeting is February 25, 2026 from 2:30PM – 4:00PM in Room MC 211 A/B.
- F. The next Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) meeting is March 5, 2026 @ 2:15PM in Room LRC 435.
- G. The next SDMC AS Exec meeting is March 2, 2026 from 2:30PM – 4:00PM in Room A 117.
- H. The Professional Advancement Committee will review the 2026 – 2027 Sabbatical Applications on March 18<sup>th</sup>

**3. MEETING EXTENSION:**  
Move to Extend the Meeting 5 Minutes:  
**M/S**

Stojimirovic/Choi

**33 Approve**  
**3 Oppose**  
Arguelles-Ibarra  
Holowicki  
Jones

**4. ADJOURNMENT @ 4:25PM.**

Submitted by Katlin Choi & Sue Saetia

Approved by the SDMC AS: March 9, 2026