

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

President's Cabinet

November 4, 2025 | 2:15 – 3:45 p.m. | MC 211 A

1) CALL TO ORDER:

2) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

a) District and Campus Updates: VPSS Maxey called the meeting to order on behalf of Ashanti Hands who is attending the Wisdom for Good Leadership Retreat hosted by the Kern Family Foundation sponsored by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program that brings together community college leaders to focus on advancing student success and cultivating environments of human flourishing.

b) VPSS Maxey shared that Chancellor Smith is working with the Board of Governors to advocate that backfill for any non-instructional programs that were impacted by Federal cuts not count towards the 50% law. Chancellor Smith stated there was general support around the state including the unions.

c) Chancellor Smith met with out Basic Needs Coordinators yesterday to discuss the possibility of significant monetary contribution from the Cushman Foundation that would support the basic needs of our students, specifically around food insecurity. The goal would be to support students no matter where they come from in the District.

d) We will be hosting the SD Advance meeting at Mesa College on Monday. This group is a collaboration with Continuing Education that fosters a pipeline for CE students to make clear pathways to the colleges. These meetings have been held for a few years and focus on developing strategies to help transitioning students to enter Mesa College in a seamless way.

e) The Chancellor's Town Hall will be held tomorrow, November 5, 2025, at the North City Campus, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Larry Maxey, Vice President, Student Services

3) STANDING REPORTS – GOVERNANCE

a) Associated Students: Jeremiah Palomino, President of Associated Students, gave the following updates:

- 1) The Pep Rally was successful with a great turnout.
- 2) The Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is November 17-20, 2025 where students are connected to resources.
- 3) November 20, 2025, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. is the Thanksgiving Feast in MC 211 A/B.

Jeremiah Palomino, President

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

- 1) The food drive ends this week for the Children's Center.
- 2) On Monday information will be sent on the fall fundraiser which supports classified scholarships and travel/events hosted for classified professionals.
- 3) The end of year celebration for Classified Professionals will be held on December 17, 2025, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. More information will be sent today to include Mesa Deans and managers.
- 4) The office decoration contest for Homecoming winners:
First Place: Student Health Office
Second Place: Art Gallery
Third Place: Business/Technical Dean's Office

Ayana Woods, President

<p>c) Academic Senate: Mary Gwin, President of Academic Senate, gave the following updates:</p> <p>1) Mary Gwin read note on the Senate passing a resolution that urged the administration to prioritize and provide resources for the Career Peer Ambassadors, the Mesa Impactship Program, the community clinic, and workplace learning liaison programs to engage in transparent and inclusive budgetary planning that clearly outlines funding priorities and aligns with strategic plan objectives. In passing this resolution the Senate thinks that in the face of the statewide budgetary cuts to strong workforce funding and other sources of funding, transparency and inclusivity in budgeting and planning are needed on our campus so that these programs and faculty can continue to serve students. General areas of concern that Academic Senate has and all three areas are within the purview of the office of Administrative Services.</p> <p>Safety and Emergency Planning management (referencing diagram shown at October 2, 2025 President's Cabinet meeting) showing phase 5 information but it is unclear what that means. Two weeks later at Pcab it was announced that our Deans were given access to 182 page document with diagrams of buildings and evacuation plans. The diagrams are not very informative and some are incorrect. Plans in this document are vague and do not work for buildings in which classes are held because they are based on building occupants who are in an office during prescribed hours (such as 8a – 5p).</p> <p>Facilities upkeep issues include the leak in the LRC and now being told the area on the 4th may be fixed as early as the end of November, but that would be four months for the 4th floor repairs which is a long time. It is hoped the student area can be restored with carpet and ceiling tiles much sooner and they were not given an update on those repairs. The stairs leading to the 4th floor need to be vacuumed.</p> <p>Budget and budgetary processes – they are concerned about the lack of inclusivity and transparency regarding the campus budget planning in general. This includes all funds. At the beginning of the start of school Academic Senate became aware of several budget issues, such as contracts for speakers and vendors from the previous academic year were not paid. Some vendor accounts are so past due that the vendors are withholding supplies. The general fund unrestricted budgets were cut without explanation. According to Ed Code 10+1, the Senate is supposed to be part of the budgeting and planning process on our campus; our involvement in budgetary and planning benefits the students. BARC is supposed to be representative / transparent. It is not clear that this committee does what it says it does on the website or in the self-evaluation report.</p> <p>The Senate believes we can change our culture around safety, facilities, and the budget processes to better serve our students.</p>	<p>Mary Gwin, President</p>
4) Institutional Reports	
<p>Basic Needs – The Stand: The presentation included areas of support for students, programming, applying for support,</p>	<p>Johanna Aleman, Basic Needs Coordinator Pahua Vang – Basic Needs Student Services Technician</p>

<p>student parents, Fresh Success Program, housing, and collaborations.</p> <p>HSI Title III, STEM, Equity, Excellence, and Exito: The presentation included federal updates on grants, grant activities, year three objectives, peer mentoring, development of free online homework, engineering workshops, Bio-Chemistry workshops, and challenges.</p>	<p>Michael Sanders – Adjunct Counseling/Housing Coordinator Star Mohammadi – Adjunct Counselor/Fresh Success Coordinator</p> <p>Basic Needs Presentation: https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/The_Stand_Pcab_11-4-25_Optimized.pdf</p> <p>Toni Parsons, HSI Program Activity Manager</p> <p>HSI Title III, STEM, Equity, Excellence, and Exito Presentation: https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/office-of-the-president/presentation-documents/HSI_PCab_Fall%202025_11042025_Optimized.p df</p>
5) OPERATIONS	
<p>a) Instructional Updates: Isabel O'Connor, Vice President of Instruction, gave the following updates:</p> <p>1) Instruction embarking on Intersession and Spring registration. We are currently in priority registration; open registration starts December 2, 2025. We are experiencing a lot of heavy demand for spring.</p> <p>2) We received the report from WestEd regarding our Bachelor's Degree proposal for Physical Therapy Assistant. It is not conclusive and there are some concerns. The State Chancellor's Office still needs to review it and then it will have to go to BOG. There is some legislative talk about changing the process; it does not work, after a lot of effort, and then it stalls. Isabel has been working with the California League and they have looked at some legislation and ways to tackle the process. One way is that the process should stop concentrating on duplication of curriculum and move forward with more focus on workforce development needs as well as student needs.</p> <p>3) We continue to work on Common Course Number, phase 2. Dr. O'Connor met yesterday with the Chancellor's Office, Statewide Academic Senate and others representing the CIOs on some of the challenges we have encountered in terms of articulation with our transfer partners. The CSUs and UCs have treated those submissions as new courses but they were revisions.</p> <p>3) Dr. O'Connor recognized Alex Berry and all the faculty/staff who attended the Work-based Learning Summit. It was an amazing event and great to see all of the Work-based Learning across the District. The student panel was amazing.</p> <p>b) Student Services Updates: Student Services shared the following updates:</p> <p>1) Dean Cynthia Rico shared that they are in the second month of the UC/CSU application period which will continue through December 1, 2025 for priority. They have held two panels on transfer information to students. The next one is November 12, 2025, 12-1 p.m. for students who have already made the transfer and coming back to speak to SD Mesa</p>	<p>Isabel O'Connor, VPI</p> <p>Larry Maxey, VPSS</p>

