College of San Mateo Accounting Department Advisory Council

AGENDA
Thursday, April 30, 2026, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Location: Zoom

I. Welcome & Introductions (3 minutes)
- Brief welcome by Vincent Li
- Roundtable introductions

II. Welcome & Introductions (3 minutes)
- Enrollment trends
- Curriculum updates

III. Industry Trends and Curriculum Alignment for Accounting 242 course (40 minutes)
- Actg 242 (Accounting Information Systems & Internal Controls)
- Discussion: What software skills and knowledge do employers expect from accounting grads today that we should consider for the Actg 242 course?
- How well should students know Excel?
- How much database software should they know e.g., Microsoft Access?
- How about Tableau or Power BI software?
- Should we introduce A.I (Artificial Intelligence) to the Actg 242 course?
- Any Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system that students should know?
- How about Quickbooks?
- What about some basics of Python?

IV. Internship & Career Readiness (5 minutes)
- Feedback on student preparation?
- Opportunities for internship partnerships

V. Open Discussion & Next Steps (5 minutes)
- General suggestions

Report of College of San Mateo Accounting Department Advisory Council

Spring 2026

To: Francisco Gamez, Dean, Business/Technology Division
From: Stephen Heath, Leonor Cabrera and Vincent Li

The advisory council met on April 30, 2026. Council members are listed below:

- Leonor Cabrera, CSM Full-time faculty
- Stephen Heath, CSM Full-time faculty
- Vincent Li, CSM Full-time faculty
- Grace Cox, Deloitte Senior Audit & Assurance Associate
- Sean Li, PWC Deal Advisory Manager

1. Welcoming comments

Vincent thanked advisory committee members for attendance

2. Introduction of members attending meeting

Vincent welcomed back Sean and Grace from the prior year.

3. Accounting Information Systems Curriculum Planning

The meeting started discussing the Accounting Information Systems class that Leonor will teach in the fall and the relevant software skills students should learn. Grace, an audit senior at Deloitte, shared insights on Excel proficiency, emphasizing the importance of practical applications like journal entry testing. She suggested incorporating real-world scenarios to enhance students' Excel skills, which are crucial for auditing work. The discussion highlighted the need to bridge the gap between academic learning and practical workplace applications.

4. Accounting Curriculum & Software Updates Discussion

The group discussed updating the accounting information systems course curriculum, focusing on relevant software skills for students. Grace shared her experience with Power BI, Tableau, and Microsoft Access, noting that while these tools were taught in school, their practical application in auditing was limited. Vincent and Leonor discussed the use of DB2 and SQL, with Leonor asking about the current availability of Microsoft Access, which the group confirmed is no longer offered. The conversation included introductions of new team member Leonor and returning participant Sean, who works at PwC focusing on M&A and incorporating AI into their work streams.

Leonor expressed concerns about teaching accounting software skills, particularly Power BI and Tableau, noting that students often struggle with basic Excel functions like SUM and rounding. Sean clarified that while these tools might be helpful for the CPA exam, particularly in the IASC disciplinary area, they are not essential for accounting work in audit or tax roles. Sean emphasized that core Excel skills, including advanced functions and the ability to leverage AI tools effectively, are more important for workforce readiness than specific business intelligence software.

5. AI Impact on Accounting Profession

The group discussed Excel and accounting software skills, with Stephen sharing his experience using Excel and Microsoft Access in litigation work and emphasizing the importance of creating models that can be easily reviewed. The conversation then shifted to discuss the impact of AI on accounting internships and job opportunities. Grace reported that Deloitte expects AI to take over basic first-year intern work in the next few years, leading to changes in internship requirements and potentially making it harder for students to find positions. Stephen and others noted that while AI may affect entry-level positions, the accounting profession has historically struggled to meet demand, suggesting that AI's impact might not significantly harm job opportunities for accounting graduates.

6. AI Integration in Accounting Education

Sean discussed incorporating AI training into an accounting course, specifically focusing on using tools like ChatGPT and Excel. He suggested teaching students to understand the logic behind Excel formulas and how to use AI to process and analyze data, rather than focusing on detailed programming skills like Python. Sean emphasized the importance of teaching foundational logic and if-then statements, which he noted are similar to programming concepts and essential for understanding complex Excel formulas.

The group discussed the impact of AI on the accounting industry, with Grace noting that AI will likely affect accounting jobs similarly to how it has affected the tech industry. Leonor shared plans to adjust her fall classes to focus more on Excel and Microsoft Access databases, while reducing Tableau and BI components. The discussion also touched on incorporating AI tools like ChatGPT into curriculum, with Leonor expressing interest in teaching students how to effectively use AI for problem-solving.

7. Database and ERP Systems Training

The group discussed the importance of database and enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems knowledge for students, particularly in relation to software like NetSuite and Excel. Vincent suggested that teaching database foundations could be beneficial for students transitioning to industry roles. Grace shared her experience with NetSuite as an auditor, noting limited training opportunities in this area. Leonor discussed her experience with corporate systems and Sarbanes-Oxley processes, highlighting the practical challenges of system integration and the importance of Excel skills in accounting. Grace also mentioned the value of using Microsoft Visio for creating flowcharts in industry settings, though noted some staff members lack familiarity with the tool. The conversation concluded with Leonor asking about the current relevance of cost accounting in auditing, particularly for manufacturing firms.

8. Cost Accounting Curriculum Review

The group discussed the current state of cost accounting in their curriculum and its relevance to CPA exam requirements. Grace noted that cost accounting is not heavily tested in the industries she has worked in, while Vincent found that it is heavily tested in the business analysis and reporting discipline section of the CPA exam. The discussion centered on whether to offer cost accounting less frequently, potentially every two years, to focus more on core financial and managerial accounting courses given enrollment challenges and budget constraints.