



Fall 2026 ACS VPSL/DOS + Chaplains Gathering – DRAFT AGENDA

November 11-13, 2026

Millsaps College, Jackson, MS

Register for the meeting [here](#).

Hotel: Homewood Suites by Hilton Jackson, 2815 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39216. Phone: 601-398-9500. Book your room [here](#) (make sure to use Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Safari). You may also call 833-306-5166 to book and reference the group block: ACS VPSL/DOS and Chaplains.

The group rate is \$127 (standard king) and \$137 (balcony king). The cutoff date is October 11, 2026. Attendees are responsible for booking and covering their own hotel room and incidentals.

Onsite Contact: Arieon Bradford, Student Life Office Manager, bradfal@millsaps.edu, 601-974-1200

ACS Contact: Ashley Torgerson, EA to the President, atorgerson@acsouth.edu, 404-636-9533 ext. 8

Campus & Parking Information: An interactive campus map is available [here](#). Attendees who are driving should plan to park in the Gertrude C. Ford Academic Complex parking lot (#24 on the map) or in front of the Selby and Richard McRae Christian Center (#26 on the map).

Transportation: Rideshares are available to and from the airport and can be coordinated independently. A shuttle will be provided between the hotel and campus.

Wifi Information: WiFi Network: MajorGuest

Meeting Objectives:

- Share challenges and opportunities affecting student life leadership in private higher education
- Elevate successful strategies, models, and programs within ACS for the benefit of all member schools
- Identify areas of alignment and further collaboration to advance student life leadership across ACS

AGENDA

Time (Central Time)	Session Details	Location
Wednesday, November 11		
2:00 – 2:15 PM (All times CT)	Welcome	McRae Christian Center, Wells Hall Room 120

2:15 – 3:30 PM	Opening Roundtable <i>All attending institutions present summary reports, ~5 min each</i> • 1 or 2 significant accomplishments or points of pride from past year • Key initiative/trends impacting the student experience • Emerging opportunities or areas of optimism • Significant challenges • Any enrollment or demographic updates that are relevant to student affairs strategy <i>Confidentiality is presumed when institutions make reports</i>	McRae Christian Center, Wells Hall Room 120
3:30 – 3:45 PM	<i>Break</i>	
3:45 – 5:00 PM	Session #1: Supporting Today's Student – Basic Needs, Belonging, & Partnerships • How are we supporting students with financial need, especially amidst federal lending changes? • How are campuses scaling up initiatives to meet basic needs (housing, food security, emergencies)? • What practices are effective in addressing student isolation and fostering a stronger sense of community? • What are the most effective leadership programs and support structures for sophomore students? • How are you measuring belonging and student connectedness – and what partnerships (Academic Affairs, Athletics) are driving the best results? • What do the most effective cross-departmental partnerships addressing retention look like?	McRae Christian Center, Wells Hall Room 120
5:00 – 6:00 PM	<i>Break / Transition to dinner</i>	
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Welcome Dinner	TBD
Thursday, November 12		
6:30 AM – 8:30 AM	<i>Complimentary breakfast offered at the hotel</i>	
8:45 AM	<i>Shuttle pick up</i>	
9:00 – 9:30 AM	ACS Updates – Anna Drake Warshaw, President, ACS • ACS programming & priorities for the year • Collaborative opportunities & topics of interest • Discussion/Q&A	McRae Christian Center, Wells Hall Room 120

9:00 – 10:30 AM	Session #4: Staff Development, Capacity, and Mental Health • What strategies are colleagues finding most effective for managing their teams, developing emerging leaders, and navigating generational differences around work? • What are colleagues observing in hiring and turnover trends, and what changes are we seeing to the types of roles we need in student life? • How are we supporting the mental health of faculty and staff who are working with students? How are we modeling this as leaders?	McRae Christian Center, Wells Hall Room 120
10:30 – 10:45 AM	<i>Break</i>	
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Closing Session: Final Thoughts & Looking Forward • Additional polls as needed • Closing reflections: ○ What have we learned? ○ What questions do we still have? ○ What are we taking away? ○ Where are there opportunities for ACS collaboration? • Fall 2027 gathering dates & location	McRae Christian Center, Wells Hall Room 120
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch	TBD
1:00 PM	Adjourn	

Next meeting: November 2027 – Dates & location coming soon