

Yuetong Zhang Senate Application

1. Why do you want to join the DASB Senate, and what do you hope to achieve?

I want to act as a bridge between student needs and the realization of said needs. I think that if students are willing to voice their concerns, their concerns should be respected and acted upon. I have watched the DASB and its Committees dedicate, sacrifice, and fight for services and policies that benefit the students and I want to be a significant force in this goal. I hope to foster a more connected relationship between the DASB and the general student body. I have noticed that De Anza students are often apathetic towards the student government and unaware of how the work of senators helps them. Through more student engagement, I believe that the DASB will receive constructive input which can further improve its initiatives and make students believe that they have the power to effect change.

2. What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASB Senate?

I have a lot of experience in leadership and organization. I spearheaded a service project that aimed to raise funds for the Cancer Association of Botswana. During that time, I coordinated the tasks of multiple breakoff groups and synthesized their efforts into a family fun day that raised BWP 26 000. I am part of an NGO that services under-privileged children in a rural village where water and electricity are unavailable, food is scarce and provided only by the school, and middle school aged students struggled with basic math and English. I dedicated a lot of time tutoring them, embarking on feeding projects, and developing strategies to improve learning. I also organized and hosted the annual school gameshow during exam season as a way for students to destress. I delegated tasks and worked on all aspects such as logistics, team selection and coordination, marketing, and sourcing of funds that culminated into the final event. This was a particular learning experience since I juggled the event, final IGCSE exams, and my theater commitments at the same time. In regards to theater, I have directed multiple theater productions which have furthered my skills as a leader, refined my methods of helping actors grow, and taught me ways of raising others' morale and confidence. I served in my high school's student government for three years during which I attended several leadership workshops. I developed skills of effective communication and building transparent and trusting relationships. I am also a very outgoing and approachable person who people are able to trust. This is evident in my three years of experience as a high school peer mentor.

3. What other commitments do you have and how will you manage your time?

My only other commitment outside of schoolwork at the moment is that I am a tutor at the WRC. This generally averages 6 hours of work per week. My workhours will be scheduled around Senate and Committee meetings. I am a very organized person where my tasks are always listed and timed, and my events/meetings are always scheduled. When working on projects, I normally allot a specific amount of time each day to make progress in small increments leading up to the deadline.

4. Additional comments

I think that I will be a valuable addition to the DASB Senate since I am a high-achieving and goal-oriented person. I am driven and always try my hardest to fight through challenges that may be presented. I am dedicated to service and in this case, I am determined to serve our students to my highest potential in order to support their education and essential needs.