

Esha Dadbhawala

How did you hear about the DASB Senate?

An email from Mentors at De Anza

If you have held a DASB Senate position in the past, what was your position?

I believe that being a senator on DASG is the best way I can affect the change I want to see on De Anza's campus. My primary goal as senator would be to officially begin the process of implementing student feedback/course evaluations. Since distance learning has begun, the only way to know if a professor is right for you are a couple angry reviews on Rate my Professor. It is evident that the current methodology of evaluating professors is ineffective, unreliable, and discourteous. Moreover, I don't think it accounts for certain necessary parameters, such as understanding towards disability/medically impaired students, friendliness towards LGBTQ+ or AB450 students, and flexibility in regard to pandemic-related hardship. De Anza needs a comprehensive, regulated way for students to evaluate professors and their courses. I also hope to be a part of drafting the Equity and Diversity Committee Code, as well as working on any long-term goals DASG has for increasing equity at De Anza. Lastly, I hope to join SRS and work on outreach towards students and to build a stronger community at De Anza.

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

I want to join the senate because I believe that being a senator on DASG is the best way I can affect the change I want to see on De Anza's campus. My primary goal as a senator would be to officially begin the process of implementing student feedback/course evaluations. Since distance learning has begun, the only way to know if a professor is right for you are a couple of angry reviews on Rate my Professor. It is evident that the current methodology of evaluating professors is ineffective, unreliable, and discourteous. Moreover, I don't think it accounts for certain necessary parameters, such as understanding towards disability/medically impaired students, friendliness towards LGBTQ+ or AB450 students, and flexibility

in regard to pandemic-related hardship. De Anza needs a comprehensive, regulated way for students to evaluate professors and their courses. I also hope to be a part of drafting the Equity and Diversity Committee Code, as well as working on any long-term goals DASG has for increasing equity at De Anza. Lastly, I hope to join SRS and work on outreach towards students and to build a stronger community at De Anza. An additional goal I have is publishing a comprehensive guide to transfer to a UC or CSU through DASG. The majority of questions I see on the De Anza Reddit are related to transferring, and it's a confusing process. Moreover, there is an evident dissatisfaction with the advice of De Anza transfer counselors, who are often too overwhelmed to give each student the attention they need. I think alumni and current De Anza students, who are the most familiar with the transfer process, are the best ones to contribute to a comprehensive guide for transfer, which is something that can help community college students all over California, not just De Anza.

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

My demonstrated history of working in California politics makes me a unique asset to DASG. I began working on the Proposition 15 campaign last fall, building public support for a measure that would allocate the necessary funding to public schools in California. I researched the proposition's financial and social impacts and engaged with voters, dissuading them from notions that residential taxes, cost of living, or product prices would rise. I went on to volunteer for the Proposition 16 campaign, contacting voters to raise support for the diversity initiative in schools and workplaces, where I was overwhelmed by the support we received on our text campaign. My passion for community work grew as I realized the impact these simple conversations could have on the future of our education system. Although neither proposition passed, I felt pride in the personable change I had effected. As a result of my work on these campaigns, those who were previously ignorant of public schools' issues were now aware and interested, resulting in an increased interconnectedness in our community. I also led and organized a workshop on equity for the National Parliamentary Debate Invitational Equity panel last November. I recruited alumni across various

backgrounds, formed a panel of 5 people, and selected topics such as sexual assault, discrimination, queerness, anti-blackness, and small school exclusion. I created discussion questions to accompany each topic and moderated/facilitated a 2-hour discussion for 180 students. Lastly, I was president of my speech and debate club in high school, leading my 200-member club. I brought the club out of debt by fundraising \$70,000, hired a full coaching staff, and oversaw the highest amount of championship qualifications in club history. I organized events like our school-wide showcase and mentored JV students.

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

My grandmother has recently come to live with me, leading me to quit my waitressing job out of concern for infecting her with COVID-19. As a result, 15 hours in my schedule have recently opened up, making me confident I will be able to handle the responsibility of being a DASG senator. Moreover, learning to cope with ADHD has led me to develop strong organizational and time-management skills, so I know that even if my schedule becomes busy, I can handle it. Currently, my only time commitments are college applications, school, and taking care of my sister.

Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)

What student concerns do you feel the DASB should address?

I think DASG needs to uplift programs such as DSPS and JMRR to make them more accessible to students. We have a rich, vibrant student body on campus and people need to be made aware of the community that is available to them. Additionally, I believe DASG should begin work on student feedback/course evaluations. Lastly, DASG should set concrete goals for anti-racism work.