

Hafsa Rehan

How did you hear about the DASB Senate?

The idea of running for office in student government was always very appealing to me, so in December 2020 I started searching the De Anza website for student government opportunities. That is when I came across the DASB and what it does, I also received emails regarding introduction meetings from January 2021 and that made it the process clearer.

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

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

"I want to join the DASB senate so I can be a voice for my fellow students, offer my time and services to my community and offer support to those who need it. I enjoy meeting new people and plan on pursuing a career in social justice. I want to join DASB so I can share my ideas with fellow Senators, bring up student concerns and matters that need more attention.

Through DASB, I want to hear other senators and students personal experiences and their solutions to them. I want to meet people and build relationships with them, develop the ability to enact and influence legislature, and most importantly, I want to make a positive change in someone's life."

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

"I consider myself to be optimistic, compassionate and driven. I also have strong communication skills, good listening skills, I learn from my mistakes and am grounded by my ethics. I value teamwork and have the ability to bring together a crowd of people with aligned interests in efforts of bringing about bigger change.

As a senator, having that skill means I can contribute to forming coalitions, marketing and uniting the student body to speak up for the better of our campus, community and lives. I believe an individual given authority owes honesty and the promise of always making decisions in The People's interest. I can also work under stressful conditions, in fast-paced environments and ensure attention to detail in documentation and ongoing projects.

In my short 22 years, I have lived in two countries, been forced to drop out of high school due to unfavorable circumstances, started a new life in California as a refugee, worked a full time job to pay for living expenses and education, been a commuter student and a victim of sexual/mental harassment on campus. Through these experiences, I emerged as a stronger person and want to be the voice for those who are not able to make it. Initially, I was not aware of the multiple resources available to students and a lot of it was because I did not know who to go to, or how to ask for help. My personal experiences give me a stronger drive to help out my fellow students, and make sure that they know we are here to listen and work for positive change."

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

"Apart from getting involved at DASB, I am a Political Science major and am currently enrolled 19 units of coursework. I am also an FA PAC intern and spend between 3-6 hours of my week in advocacy and being socially and politically active. I have a schedule set out for my classes, two of which are completely online so do not meet through Zoom. I also have days set aside when I work on my assignments and readings.

I am able to meet all my deadlines by adding the events to my phone calendar and setting multiple reminders throughout the week or month - depending on how much time is required. I plan on using the same strategy throughout the academic year, which is to pencil down deadlines as soon as I find out about them and then set up multiple reminders. I also try to structure my work and prepare for it, so I am not overwhelmed with it when it is due. That being said, I also work good under pressure and in situations where something challenging comes up last minute I put in my all to give it my best shot. "

Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)

What student concerns do you feel the DASB should address?

"Amongst a wide array of student concerns that come to my mind, I will focus on addressing the ones most important to me and those that we can realistically and actively work towards despite being largely immobile due to a pandemic. I would like to primarily address campus outreach. A lot of students are not aware where the DASB office is located, when or where elections are held or how to get involved. Some don't know a senate exists. I want to encourage the use of social media and personal contacts to tell people more about the Senate and what it does. Amongst most students who know the DASB exists, they do not know that any student can come to a senator and address their issues.

I also want to emphasize on working on campaigns that tell our student body more about our on campus police department (FHDA PD). As a domestic abuse victim, when my stalker would follow me around on campus, I did not know that someone from FHDA PD could have escorted me to my car, or that I could have filed a report. I was scared and dreaded coming to school, I think it is very important for students to be able to know what numbers to call and the quickest ways to get to the police department. A lot of students might not want to go to the police department because of police brutality cases that have been on an all time high in our country. For that, we should have peace officers working with students who are trained not to react, and we should boost students' confidence and trust in the police department so they do not hesitate to ask for help."